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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Should the House of Representatives impeach Gov. Benigno R. Fitial?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

NATION

Rep. Todd Akin fought to salvage his Senate campaign Monday, even as members of his own party turned against him and a key source of campaign funding was cut off in outrage over the Missouri congressman's comments that women are able to prevent pregnancies in cases of "legitimate rape."

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ASIAN

The body of Philippine Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo was found and retrieved early Tuesday from the sea off a central province where his small plane had crashed three days earlier, officials said.

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LIFE & STYLE

Director Tony Scott loved fast cars, riding fast motorcycles and creating some of the most memorable action sequences of the past quarter century. He was even planning a sequel to his hit "Top Gun."

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$3.2M in child tax credit checks. PAGE 3
House OKs pension recovery bill. PAGE 4

Court issues TRO to stop power deal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman issued yesterday a temporary restraining order that prohibits Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and Saipan Development LLC from pursuing the $190-million, 25-year power purchase agreement.

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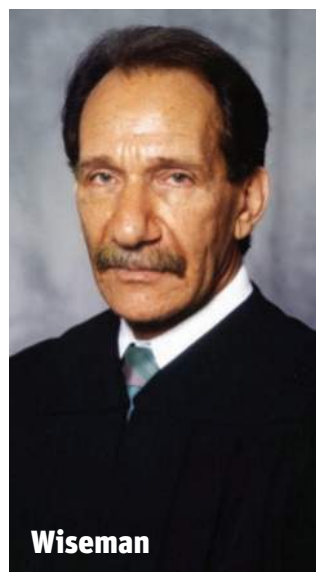

Wiseman

Officials rejoice over granting of TRO on $190M power deal

» As new resolution asks Inos—not Fitial—to cancel PPA

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By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lawmakers and other government officials rejoiced upon hearing yesterday's news that Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman granted a temporary restraining order prohibiting the CNMI and Saipan Development LLC

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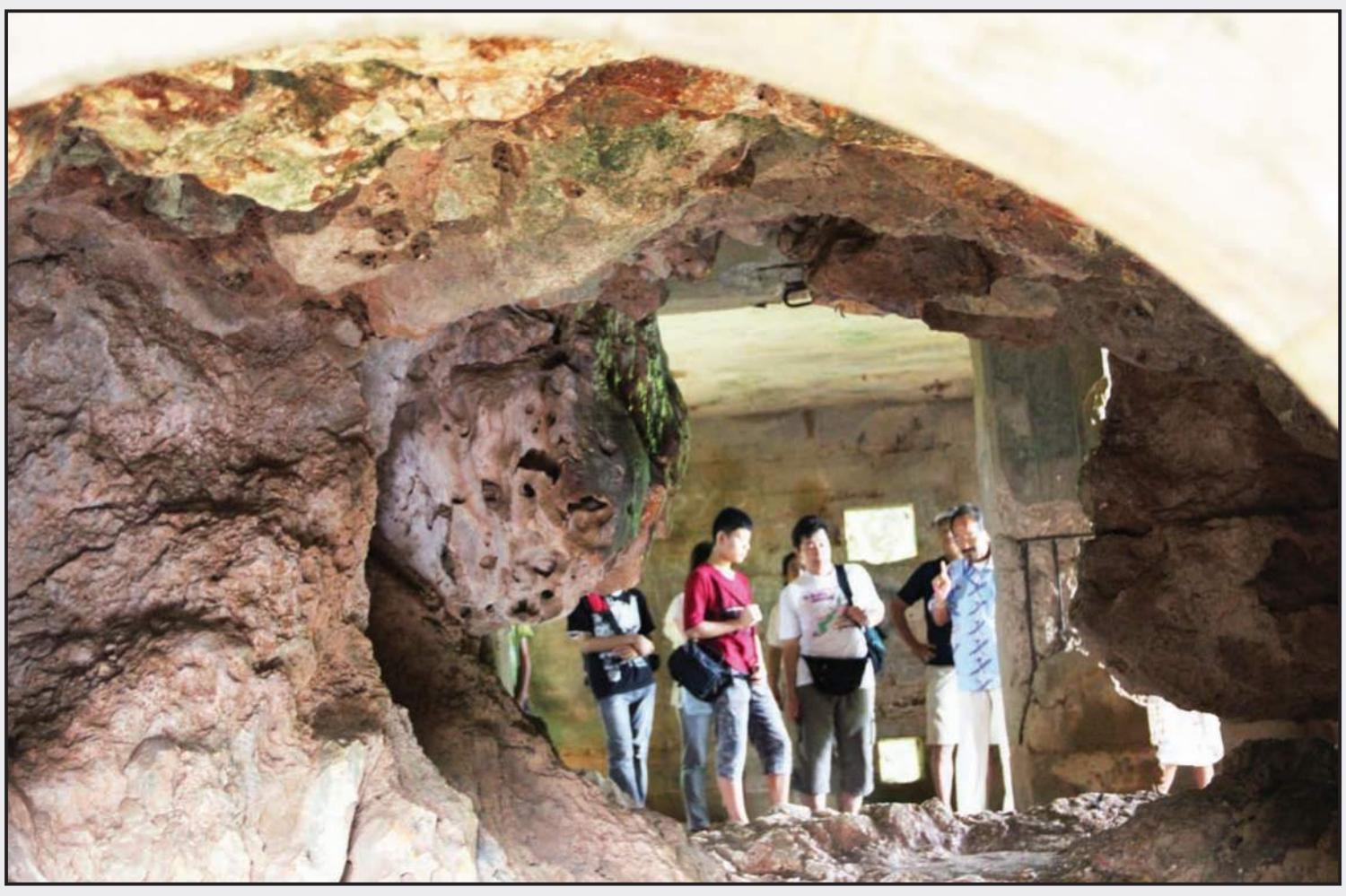

RICH IN HISTORY
A tour guide, right, gives Japanese tourists a guided tour of a concrete structure used by Japanese forces during World War II in a spot now called the Last Command Post in historic Marpi, in the northernmost part of Saipan. While the CNMI is known for its relaxing shores of white beaches and crystal clear blue waters, its historic past—as evidenced by ancient quarries, Spanish era churches, and World War II sites—has also become a come-on for tourists.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Four doctors resign, two others planning to quit CHC

» DMA confirms CHC anticipates only 12 doctors onboard by end of year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

By year's end the Commonwealth Health Center may only have as low as a dozen physicians, following the resignation of four more doctors and the planned departure of two more, according to medical affairs director Dr. Jeremy Richards.

Richards confirmed to *Saipan Tribune* that internal medicine physician Dr. Chad Lowe quit last week and will be working only until the end of next month.

He also disclosed that the hospital's only obstetrician and gynecologist, Dr. Jennifer Linden, will officially leave her post on Friday.

Dr. Trenton Scheibe, who is assigned at the emergency room, is also expected to leave anytime soon.

Scheibe was supposed to leave last July but was asked to stay on for a while to cover for an ER physician who was on personal leave.

Richards also bared that orthopedic specialist Dr. Ruben Arafile, who also

See FOUR on Page 4

Local

Online petition asks Legislature to impeach Fitial

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An online petition launched yesterday asks the Legislature to impeach Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, whose secretive signing of a sole-source 25-year power purchase agreement with a mysterious firm that is guaranteed to receive at least $190.8 million is now being added to an impeachment resolution that the House minority bloc has been working on for months.

Within hours, some 100 individuals responded to the online petition launched by a concerned citizen, Ed Propst.

The online petition is addressed to the Legislature which, according to the NMI Constitution, may impeach the governor for "treason, commission of a felony, corruption, or neglect of duty."

The petition is available at http://www.change.org/petitions/the-cnmi-legislature-impeach-cnmi-governor-benigno-fitial.

Propst said there may be a number of people who are too afraid to lose their jobs, so they may not sign the petition.

» Administration: Respect freedom of expression

"I would love to get over 1,000 signatures, but it is not really about the number. It is about standing up against tyranny, oppression, and a very corrupt administration which has managed to destroy everything they touch. We have reached the tilting point and there is no turning back. Either we fight to reclaim our government, or we all end up leaving the islands we love so dearly," Propst told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Propst said the CNMI "cannot afford another two years of neglect, mismanagement, corrupt backdoor shady sole-source deals, and a regime that rules by fear. Lives are at stake here, most especially the lives of future generations."

House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) said he was not aware of the online petition and had yet to see it as of yesterday afternoon, but he said such movement "clearly shows what the public feels about what's going on" in government and in the CNMI.

"It shows there's growing dissension, a growing public dissatisfaction with the governor," Deleon Guerrero separately told *Saipan Tribune*.

Propst

He said there is no direct link between the movers of the online petition and the House minority bloc working on an impeachment resolution.

"That petition is news to me… They are doing that independently. Clearly this is the pulse of the people, talking about their sentiments about the governor," he said.

'Freedom of expression'

Acting press secretary Teresa Kim said acting governor Eloy S. Inos "respects a person's right to exercise their freedom of expression," when asked about the online petition to impeach Fitial.

Fitial is currently on a three-week, off-island trip that includes attending the Republican National Convention in Florida starting on Sunday. Fitial chairs the Republican Party of the CNMI Association.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that "it seems" more people are asking the Legislature to "do something," referring to the online petition to impeach the governor.

"They're saying enough is enough. That's why the governor should stop playing politics. There's too much suffering by the people yet he continues to make politics his priority," Manglona said, adding that Fitial chose to go to Florida for a political event instead of addressing pressing concerns in the CNMI.

On Saturday, a woman stood beside the road leading to and from Capital Hill with the sign, "Honk…impeachment," drawing response from passing motorists.

That woman told *Saipan Tribune* she represents the "silent majority" that is already fed up with the way things are in government. She urges the community and lawmakers to support the House minority bloc's resolution to impeach the governor.

When asked for comment about this placard-holding woman, Inos' office said, "(The) acting governor respects a person's right to assemble and express their views."

'Not entirely confident'

Because the online petition is addressed to the Legislature, pro-impeachment lawmakers hope that their colleagues would heed peoples' call for change from the top.

In the 20-member House, at least 14 affirmative votes are needed to impeach the governor. Right now, the governor's allies form the majority in the House.

The nine-member Senate needs at least six affirmative votes are needed to convict.

But Propst said he is "not entirely confident we will get an impeachment, but we must try and we must put pressure on our leaders."

"They must do the right thing here and put their personal relationship with the governor aside. Our people are dying. The only way we can hope for a better future is to do the right thing and remove a king from his throne. This is not his island. This is our island, and we will do all we can to put government back where it belongs...in the hands of our people," Propst added.

Those who have so far signed the online petition share their disappointment with the governor.

"Fitial is a blatantly dishonest and self-serving politician, who seems to see himself as King of the CNMI, not an elected civil servant," one petitioner wrote.

Another one said, "Incompetency: CHC set free as Corporation without a competent fiscal plan nor executive personnel/Board, Medicaid transfer to Office of the Governor; improper contract executed behind closed doors in the amount of $190 million, after assuring CNMI that alternative energy will be explored; improper/illegal perhaps usage of Executive Order in CUC, NMIRF [NMI Retirement Fund]. What a shameful inability to work constructively with experts in the field of CUC, and with the Judicial system decision vis a vis NMIRF. A good neighbor, but a failed leader. Out before we sink."

For many, the $190.8-million power purchase agreement that Fitial and former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham signed on Aug. 3—a day before Buckingham's controversial departure from the CNMI—is only the latest example of how the governor "betrayed" the CNMI people's trust and confidence.

Saipan Development LLC, the mysterious firm that bagged the sole-source power contract, was registered five days prior to an initial agreement in March with the CNMI government. It's not known yet who the principal owners of this firm are, who signed the PPA from the company, and whether the officials would be open to a cancellation of the PPA.

Most in the CNMI, including acting governor Inos and the Legislature which is supposed to approve any public debt, didn't know about the 25-year power purchase agreement until after the *Saipan Tribune* broke the story last week.

Fitial agrees not to enforce EO on Fund until motions are resolved

Judge Tydingco-Gatewood sets new dates for hearing, submissions

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has agreed not to enforce his executive order declaring a state of emergency for the financially troubled NMI Retirement Fund until the federal court resolves the motions filed by two unnamed retirees.

Fitial, through the Office of the Attorney General, signed on Monday a stipulation in which he agrees not to implement in any way his Executive Order 2012-06, including any amended or superseding executive order, until the unnamed retirees' motion for temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, to lift the stay, and for leave to file a second amended complaint are resolved by the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Under the stipulation, the acting Fund administrator shall have only the ministerial powers of the administrator as provided by law until the court resolves the subject motions.

Assistant attorney general Gilbert Birnbrich signed the stipulation as counsel for Fitial, CNMI government, and Department of Finance. The other signatories in the stipulation are attorneys Stephen Woodruff as counsel for the two unnamed retirees, Braddock J. Huesman as counsel for the Fund Board of Trustees, and Carolyn M. Kern as counsel for the Fund.

The parties agreed that oppositions to the unnamed retirees' motions shall be filed no later than Aug. 23, 2012 and that the reply will be no later than Aug. 28. They agreed to hold the hearing on Aug. 31 as presently set.

Following the stipulation, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood issued on Monday an order, vacating her previous order pertaining to submission and hearing dates.

In her new order, Tydingco-Gatewood granted the parties' requested submission dates. She, however, set Sept. 7, 2012 at 10:30am as the new date for oral arguments on the motion to lift the stay.

The judge said in the event she grants the motion to lift the stay, the parties shall be prepared to argue the other motions.

The original schedule for oral arguments on the motion to lift the stay is Aug. 31.

Last week, U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division designated judge Robert J. Faris issued an order formally dismissing the Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

With the dismissal of the case, the two unnamed retirees represented by attorney Bruce Jorgensen then filed the motions.

Jorgensen and co-counsels Robert M. Hatch, Margery S. Bronster, and Stephen C. Woodruff asserted that their motion for TRO and preliminary injunction seeks to prevent Fitial from "illegally seizing the Fund and assuming dictatorial control over it."

Last June 7, Fitial issued Executive Order 2012-06 that suspends the power of the Fund's board of trustees and administrator, and transfer this executive power to Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson.

Fitial then stated that E.O. 2012-06 shall become effective immediately upon the court's filing of its order dismissing the Fund's bankruptcy case.

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$3.2M in child tax credit checks

But rebates, refunds may take few more weeks

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Parents could expect to receive their child tax credit checks on or before Tuesday next week following the Department of Finance's announcement that it received $3.2 million in child tax credits yesterday.

Finance said it has begun processing checks for those individuals whose credits have been cleared by the Internal Revenue Service.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, in a statement, said the release of child tax credit checks is timely as private schools have recently opened for the new school year and the Public School System will begin sessions in early September.

"These additional funds for families will be helpful so that school children may be well equipped with school supplies, clothing, shoes, and other needed items as they start a new academic year," said Inos, who oversees government finances and a former Finance secretary.

Inos also thanked the "hard working staff at the Department of Finance's Revenue and Taxation Division for working diligently to process these credits."

A 28-year-old mother of three said last night that receipt of a child tax credit check "will be a big help." She said her family receives child tax credit checks for two of her three children, for $1,000 each.

"I hope this year we will receive it early, unlike last year when we didn't get it until after several months," the Garapan resident said.

The federal child tax credit is available to taxpayers who have a child under the age of 17. It is worth up to $1,000 per "qualifying" child.

In general, a "qualifying" child is any individual for whom the taxpayer can claim a dependency exemption and who is the taxpayer's son or daughter, stepson or stepdaughter, brother or sister, or eligible foster child.

Acting press secretary Teresa Kim said Finance advised the public that there are no early releases for child tax credits.

"They are processed as quickly as the IRS clears qualified tax filers," Kim said. "While these are much anticipated funds, the public is asked to refrain from calling the United States Post Office to verify if their checks are in their mailboxes. The USPS is expected to have a few thousand extra mails to sort and place in boxes and the process will surely be delayed by additional calls."

Kim said with respect to tax refund and rebates, Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson anticipates that release will begin once the child tax credits are issued.

"This may take a few more weeks," Kim added.

A refund is for tax that has been overpaid or incorrectly paid, and is returned to the taxpayer. It is different from the rebate, which is for tax properly paid and is subsequently returned to the taxpayer under a rebate provision.

Last year, the first batch of rebate and refund checks didn't come out until October, much later than in previous years when these checks were released in July or earlier.

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Phone: 323-4260/61 • Fax: 323-4263 | Email: elplinske@staywellguam.com
FlameTree Terrace Office Building, Lower Capitol Hill

House OKs pension recovery bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed yesterday morning a second administration-drafted bill addressing NMI Retirement Fund concerns and a transition into the U.S. Social Security system, less than two months before the target transition of Oct. 1.

By a vote of 17-1, floor leader George Camacho's House Bill 17-315, House Draft 1 passed the House, drawing applause from mostly police officers and other government employees in the House gallery.

Rep. Ray Basa's (Cov-Saipan) Ways and Means Committee, which reviewed the bill, recommended the removal of the entire Section 204 which pertains to early retirement.

Prior to voting on the bill, some members sought clarification on the committee's decision to remove the early retirement provision.

Basa's committee said the improved early retirement is a benefit increase that requires an actuarial analysis, a dedicated source of funding, and submission to the voters for approval.

"Section 204 increases the costs to the Retirement Fund and may delay the implementation of House Bill 17-315," the panel said.

The House adopted the committee report, and voted on the amended bill, with Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) as the only present member who voted "no."

Villagomez cited several reasons for voting against the bill, including a question on "when" the CNMI will become a part of the Social Security system.

"Are we guaranteed a spot or are we doing an RSVP without even being invited? Section 200 (b) If authorized by federal law—If? What is the status on this federal law or proposal? Section 200 (b) 'an employee who elects to buy back quarters into SS will be required to pay the required premiums'—Pay 100 percent of the premiums? Wouldn't an employer, in this case, the CNMI government have had to pay in a portion of the buy back?" he said.

Villagomez also asked whether the CNMI has the funds for the payouts, and what the fiscal impact on payroll would be.

He said Section 203 (b) has to be addressed in the 2013 budget, and asked whether it will be sufficient enough.

"The administration is proposing to appropriate $11 million. We need to be paying out $70 million annually if I am not mistaken. So if we need $70 million and $11 million is addressed in the budget, that will leave us short $59 million. If you recall in our meetings with the lieutenant governor, he kept mentioning that we will be $19 million short. If that is the case, then that means $51 million will be addressed in the budget, right? Do the math. $70 million minus $51 million is $19 million. Why $51 million? Well $11 million is addressed in the budget proposal for 2013. I can only assume that they will get the $40 million from the corpus or fund portfolios. Will the budget be 'balanced' if there is a shortage of $19 million? Where are we going to get the $19 million? And is tapping into the corpus or fund portfolios the right thing to do?" he said.

The bill is co-authored by House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan).

It amends the Commonwealth Code pertaining to the Fund's defined contribution and defined benefit plans to allow for a transition into the federal Social Security system.

Acting press secretary Teresa Kim, when asked for comment, said acting governor Eloy S. Inos "welcomes the news of the passage of HB 17-315 in the House."

"While the early retirement provision would have afforded eligible government employees to retire early, which would clearly reduce the government's employer contribution liabilities, this measure is still supported by the Administration. The acting governor hopes the Senate will expeditiously pass this measure as well as the much needed HB 17-312," Kim said.

Joe Pangelinan, representative of active government members, said he's relieved that the bill passed the House and hopes that the Senate will follow suit.

He said the bill addresses the concerns of both active members and retirees. He said the bill gives options to active members whether to join the Social Security or withdraw their contributions without penalty.

HB 17-315, HD1 now heads to the Senate for action.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that the Senate will act expeditiously on the bill.

The Senate is expected to combine HB 17-315 with that of HB 17-312, another administration-drafted bill expressing the CNMI's interest in joining the Social Security system.

U.S. Social Security Administration regional commissioner Bill Zielinski confirmed last week that his agency is already working in partnership with the CNMI government to enroll its employees into the Social Security program. He also hopes to provide accurate information about the options available to the CNMI government.

OFFICIALS

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from pursuing a sole-source $190.8-million, 25-year power purchase agreement, minutes after a House member introduced a resolution asking acting governor Eloy S. Inos—not Gov. Benigno R. Fitial—to "cancel" the PPA.

Acting press secretary Teresa Kim said Rep. Frank Dela Cruz's (R-Saipan) resolution asking Inos to cancel the PPA "may be moot in consideration of the TRO granted by Judge Wiseman."

Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), who filed the motion for TRO on Monday, was relieved and thankful for the court's prompt action to what she described as an "unconstitutional, illegal, unconscionable and unjust" power purchase agreement.

"I'm very pleased. There's really a need to put a temporary stay on this contract. It's so frustrating that we can't get answers from the top… I believe going to court is the best recourse to get the answers," Maratita said in an interview at her office yesterday.

The sole-source PPA was signed by Fitial and former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham on Aug. 3, a day before Buckingham left the CNMI despite being served a penal summons in connection with criminal charges.

The administration has yet to receive the original copy of the PPA reportedly signed by a Saipan Development LLC official.

Maratita said the TRO complements the Senate resolution adopted on Friday, and a House resolution introduced yesterday asking for the cancellation of the PPA.

She said while she supports these resolutions, "it's sad to say that resolutions these days have become insignificant" so she "took another route and filed a TRO."

Maratita said among the unanswered questions are the need for diesel-powered engines when the government was supposedly gearing toward renewable energy, the individuals behind Saipan Development LLC which she said remains a mystery company getting paid a minimum of $190.8 million in 25 years, and the nature by which the contract was signed.

"This is nothing personal, and nothing to do with politics… The public needs to know what we're getting into in the next 25 years," she said.

'Victory for the people'

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) described the court's granting of TRO as "victory for the people" demanding answers to important questions about a 25-year contract.

"Obviously, the congresswoman (Maratita) presented a good argument. This is good for the people of the Commonwealth. Government officials should be transparent when it comes to signing contracts such as a $190-million contract. This is a victory for the people of the Commonwealth," Manglona said.

The Senate resolution asked Fitial to cancel the 25-year PPA until a comprehensive economic analysis is made to determine the fiscal impact of the deal on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and ratepayers.

Inos, who was unaware of Fitial and Buckingham's signing of the PPA until it was reported in the media, requested last week an independent full economic analysis on the matter.

Fitial is currently on a three-week, off-island trip and is not expected to be back at least until Sept. 4.

A senator said the Senate resolution is not entirely moot after the court's granting of a TRO because such resolution asked for things other than cancellation of the PPA such as focus on renewable energy.

House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) hopes that the TRO will finally pave the way for the public to know more about the power purchase contract that the governor and the former AG signed.

"Hopefully we get to investigate the details of the contract, and see what it really means to CUC and the Commonwealth. We hope to understand the merits of the contract, good or bad," he said.

Dela Cruz introduced House Resolution 17-110 during yesterday's session, but it could not be acted on because it did not meet the 24-hour advance notification.

HR 17-110, co-sponsored by Deleon Guerrero and Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), objects to the sole-source PPA entered into between CUC and Saipan Development LLC by Fitial, "and requesting acting governor Eloy S. Inos to cancel the power purchase."

The resolution asks for a comprehensive economic analysis to determine the PPA's fiscal impact and need of a new diesel power plant and, "if a need is justified, to proceed with an open request for proposals."

'Each family would pay'

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) separately said yesterday that the PPA—a "midnight, secret, very sweet deal"—also includes the provision that if corporate taxes increase, the company will pass those increases on to ratepayers.

"While we have to wait until CUC and acting governor Inos will release their study on what this PPA will really cost us [that's if they make public the analysis], we initially estimate it to be at least $40,000 for the next 25 years for each child and adult presently in the Northern Mariana Islands. Thus, a family of four has been obligated to a $200,000 debt for the next 25 years just for electricity," Sablan said.

The delegate said "If one thinks CUC bills are already high, add on to your utility billings water and sewer and you can imagine what you will be paying CUC for the next 25 years."

COURT

From Page 1

In granting Rep. Janet U. Maratita's (Ind-Saipan) motion for TRO, Wiseman ordered Fitial, Buckingham, CUC, and Saipan Development LLC to show cause why a preliminary injunction against them, restraining the same activities, should not be issued.

The judge said in issuing the TRO no security bond shall be required because Rep. Maratita is an elected official of the Commonwealth, and any case, the court determines that it is in the public's best interest not to require security for this case.

Wiseman set the hearing on the lawmaker's motion for preliminary injunction for Aug. 30, 2012 at 1:30pm.

Wiseman said the plaintiff's alleged immediate and irreparable injury, loss, or damage is to her health, safety, and well-being.

"It is allegedly irreparable because it will be likely impossible for plaintiff to determine the precise amount of damage in terms of the plaintiff's safety, health, and well-being lost which she alleges will continue to suffer if the defendants' conducts are not restrained," the judge said.

Wiseman said this matter is also of great public concern and interest, because it involves an alleged secret deal that may cost the CNMI taxpayers and ratepayers over $200 million in 25 years.

"It is likely that some of the issues may rise to that of a constitutional magnitude," he said.

Maratita, through counsel Ramon Quichocho, filed a taxpayer's lawsuit against Fitial, Buckingham, CUC, and Saipan Development LLC over the signing of the power purchase agreement on Aug. 3, 2012.

The lawmaker is suing Fitial, Buckingham, and CUC for taxpayer's right of action: illegal expenditure of public funds and breach of fiduciary duty.

Maratita asked the court to declare that the power purchase agreement is "unconstitutional, illegal, unconscionable, and unjust, and therefore cancelled."

Per the power purchase agreement, on March 27, 2012, Saipan Development LLC, and the CNMI executed a Power Plant Development and Management Agreement by which Saipan Development was granted the exclusive right to develop a diesel generated electric power plant on Saipan.

Quichocho described Saipan Development LLC as a "mysterious company" that is incorporated in the State of Delaware on March 22, 2012.

FOUR

From Page 1

resigned earlier, will leave by December this year.

From the level of physician assistants, one assigned at the ER, Dirk Tonner, also quit and is expected to leave in November.

Besides these doctors and physician assistant, Richards is also anticipating the exit of two other doctors. He, however, refused to name them pending the formal submission of their resignation papers.

Saipan Tribune, however, learned that Drs. Jeremiah and Christine Crank have informed colleagues about their departure from CHC. Jeremiah Crank is assigned at the internal medicine unit, while Christine Crank is one of the hospital's pediatricians.

According to Richards, CHC has 18 total physicians onboard including one locum doctor, or hired on a short-term period. The expected exit of six physicians—Lowe, Linden, Scheibe, Arafile, and the Cranks—will result in CHC having only 12 doctors by December.

The public hospital has three PAs onboard and with the departure of Tonner in November, only two will be left—Benjamin Hochhalter and Christine Strong.

At the internal medicine unit, only two doctors will be left after the departure of Lowe and Jeremiah Crank. According to Richards, he's hoping that the position of Linden would soon be filled at the ob-gyne unit, while he admitted that Arafile is the only orthopedic doctor currently working at the hospital.

Little chance for recruitment

Due to the ongoing struggles and challenges at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the director for medical affairs admitted that he's seeing "very little chance for recruitment."

"I think at this point, majority of the doctors are going to leave…unless something happens. So the problem I'm seeing…is that there's a very little chance for recruitment at this time," he admitted yesterday, describing the exodus of physicians as an "awful situation" for the public hospital.

Richards pointed out that the resignations of physicians and staff is not only about money, but involves other issues and struggles at the hospital, including lack of budget to sustain the hospital's needs, lack of support from the government, the shortage of important supplies, delayed payroll and housing benefit, nonpayment of personnel allotments, and others.

He disclosed that he is formulating his "one last-ditch plan" that will try and pare down CHC at a sustainable level. But he refused to elaborate, pending consultation with the CEO and the corporation board. Richards said the plan is "unpopular" but may work for the survival of the hospital.

Man arrested for possessing 8.8 kilos of turtle meat

» Defendant's brother, 7 others also arrested for various crimes during DPS sweep of arrest warrants

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Authorities arrested during separate operations on Monday a man for alleged possession of 8.8 kilos of turtle meat and his brother and another man for possession of methamphetamine or "ice."

Defendants Martin E. Reyes, 51, Antonio E. Reyes, 43, and Dusty Nisarafach, 45, were taken to Superior Court yesterday for bail hearing.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $10,000 cash bail for Martin Reyes who is facing charges of two counts of possession of an endangered species.

Camacho imposed a $5,000 cash bail each for Antonio Reyes and Nisarafach, who both are being held for illegal possession of controlled substance.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer appeared as counsel for Martin Reyes and Nisarafach. Attorney Michael Ernest, on behalf of attorney Colin Thompson, served as counsel for Antonio Reyes. Chief prosecutor Peter Prestley represented the CNMI government.

Camacho ordered Martin Reyes to cooperate with the Office of Adult Probation to determine if he is eligible for court-appointed counsel.

CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife conservation officer II Anthony S. Mareham stated in his report that, on Aug. 2, 2012 at 5:57am conservation officers along with police detectives executed a search warrant on a boat owned by Martin Reyes at the Smiling Cove Marina's ramp.

Mareham said the officers failed to find any turtle in the boat, but small amounts of "ice" were confiscated from Martin Reyes' brother, Antonio Reyes, and Nisarafach.

Mareham said conservation officers proceeded at 6:45am on the same day to Martin Reyes' residence in Kagman II where they conducted a search for turtle.

The search team allegedly seized two plastic bags containing possible turtle meat. The search also yielded two containers of possible cooked turtle meat and one container of possible turtle blood.

Mareham said the items were procured inside a refrigerator in the kitchen area.

In the backyard, the search team allegedly discovered turtle scales scattered on the ground. Also confiscated were 119 trochus shells, 61 clam shells, one marlin spike auger, one triton trumpet shell, 72 turban trochus, and two possible turtle backbones.

Police officers confiscated marijuana plants that were allegedly stored in the house. Other items seized were a pole-climbing shoe spike, brand new code three police sirens, an amber light tear drop connected portable speaker with siren, and 250-300 lbs of high tension copper wires.

Mareham said the total weight of meat confiscated is approximately 8.8 kilos or 19.5 lbs of turtle meat.

Mareham said according to Division of Fish and Wildlife turtle biologist Tammy Summers, the turtle meat confiscated inside the refrigerator belongs to a juvenile turtle, while the scales found on the ground indicates a sub adult/adult green sea turtle.

Mareham said the backbones were determined not of a green sea turtle.

With respect to the case against Antonio Reyes and Nisarafach, CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force Detective Patrick Michael A. Sablan stated in his report that residue of "ice" were found during the search of Martin Reyes' Mazda pickup truck.

Sablan said Antonio Reyes and Nisarafach, who were in the vehicle, admitted owning the items that allegedly contained "ice" residue.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason T. Tarkong said the arrest of Antonio Reyes and Nisarafach was part of DPS' sweep of arrest warrants within the past week.

Tarkong said DPS deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro in his mission to keep the community safe is working closely with DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau detectives to crack down on crimes.

The six other persons arrested were Ben Taisacan for burglary and theft on a residence; George B. Cruz Jr. for burglary and theft of a residence; Marvin Tewid for burglary and theft of an establishment; Vincent Muna for theft at a store; Kevin Esteves for robbery, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace; and Jerry Ray for burglary and theft on a residence.

Tarkong hinted of more arrests as Ogumoro is in the process of rendering assistance on upcoming joint operations between DPS, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Bolaven gains strength, to become typhoon

Tropical Storm Bolaven (16W) yesterday continued to gain strength and is expected to become a typhoon, but was slowly moving away from the Marianas region.

As of 7pm Tuesday night, Bolaven's center was located 375 miles west of Pagan, 445 miles northwest of Saipan, and 470 miles northwest of Guam.

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos urged residents of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to take extra precautionary measures when driving on the highways due to heavy rain showers and possible flooding in low lying areas.

According to the U.S. National Weather Service in Guam, from 60 miles per hour of maximum winds sustained winds at 2pm, the maximum sustained winds increased to 65mph with force winds extended outward up to 70 miles from the center as of 7pm.

NWS said Bolaven is moving toward west-northwest at 5mph.

As of 7pm, NWS said Bolaven is expected to intensify and become a typhoon within the next 24 hours. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

2012 DISCONNECTION DATES

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of these business days

January 20 • February 27 • March 20
April 20 • May 23 • June 20 • July 20
August 22 • September 20 • October 23
November 21 • December 20

will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on these days. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before these dates.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE

You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than **these dates**. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service, Please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or Visit any IT&E CS Center nearest you.

IT&E
Life in Motion

To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:

SHELL Service Stations – up to 4:00pm
Chalan Laulau/Tinian/Rota Office– up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
Online payment – up to 9:00pm

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary

Caller Box 10007
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel. (670) 664-2587 • Fax. (670) 664-2547

ANNOUNCEMENT
CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND
AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM GRANT

August 8, 2012

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program announces an opportunity for non-profit, community-based organizations to participate in an Afterschool Program Grant. The grant is open to all community-based programs offering Afterschool Programs or activities to all school aged children between the ages 6 years to 13 years old. Eligible proposals may receive up to $20,000.00. For this grant, a total of five (5) awards will be provided. CCDF has the right to award smaller grant awards as appropriate. All funds related to this grant must be expended no later than September 30, 2013.

CCDF Afterschool Program Grant Application packets may be picked up at the Child Care and Development Fund Office, Building No. 1347 Ascension Court, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

Completed Applications along with 3 copies should be placed in a sealed envelope and submitted to the same address on or before **Friday, Aug. 31, 2012 at 12:00pm.** Faxed and emailed proposals will not be reviewed.

Inquires regarding this grant opportunity should be addressed to Maribel S. D. Loste, CCDF Program Administrator and can be made in the following way:

1. In writing and forwarded to the address above
2. Thru email at ccdf.maribelloste@gmail.com

Phone inquiries will not be entertained.

Approved for distribution: /s/ Melvin L.O. Faisao Date: August 8, 2012
Secretary, DCCA

NMC having difficulty recruiting nursing instructors

» Nursing program currently has 1 instructor, 2 more needed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Sharon Y. Hart said the institution is having a hard time recruiting qualified instructors for its nursing program. She also describes the position as the most difficult to fill in the organization.

In fact, Hart said NMC currently only has one nursing instructor and that it needs to recruit two other faculty members for the new semester.

Hart disclosed that despite aggressive efforts to recruit candidates from private and public clinics, no commitment has been secured yet by the college.

The president cited two factors in failing to get the needed nursing faculty onboard: lack of qualified nursing instructors on island and the issue of meager salary for the position.

However, the president said that it is not only in the CNMI that faculty for the nursing program is hard to fill, but across America. Hart said a nursing student who completed a two-year degree is earning as much as $40,000. "How much more for a nursing faculty who has a master's degree?" she asked.

"You can probably understand why this is so difficult for us. In many colleges, literally, they are paying the nursing faculty a lot more than other faculty members," she said during Friday's board meeting.

The president disclosed that the only nursing instructor NMC has does not even have a master's degree which is an important credential for the program. The nursing program, unlike other courses offered at NMC, has to meet the national nursing standards.

"If we want to run a nursing program, we have to have qualified faculty onboard," said the president.

According to regent William Torres, if NMC finds it difficult to get partnership and cooperation from both private and public sectors, he recommends that the college should start looking into the possibility of transferring the nursing program to University of Guam, which has better resources to offer the course. He described positions for the nursing program as "recurring vacancies" in NMC.

"Is nursing really a demand here? Given the difficulties in providing quality services, do you think NMC should continue playing this role?" pointed out Torres, adding that absent the commitment and cooperation from the public and private sectors, it's about time to explore the idea of letting go of the nursing program.

For Torres, the college should focus on education program if offers which has guaranteed success for many years. Each year, graduates from this program are directly hired by the Public School System.

But Hart claimed that "nursing is absolutely a major demand on the island," but a major issue must be addressed, which is the prevailing salary for NMI nurses.

Meantime, regent Frank Rabauliman expressed his concern that majority of the college's nursing graduates go off-island because of higher salary, leaving only a few nursing graduates to serve the Commonwealth Health Center.

Opinions split on how govt revenues are calculated

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public School System federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that the system and the Executive Branch have different views on how CNMI government revenues are being calculated, which is an important factor in determining the maintenance of effort for public education.

The maintenance of effort is a requirement from the U.S. Department of Education that mandates a certain level of government revenues to be allocated for public education.

For fiscal year 2009, USDOE determined that public education must receive 29 percent of the entire government budget of which PSS' share is 25 percent, while Northern Marianas College is 4 percent.

As a result of this decision, it was determined that the central government owed PSS $11.3 million representing unremitted MOE for fiscal year 2009.

During a recent meeting with acting governor Eloy S. Inos, Thornburgh revealed that the administration wants to discount all the bond payment as part of the CNMI revenues, a position countered by education officials.

"We have a very different view. We believe that since it [bond payment] was appropriated as part of the revenues, it is indeed part of the entire CNMI revenues [and resources]. This is where the USDOE will make a decision to determine the appropriate MOE for PSS," Thornburgh told *Saipan Tribune* in a visit to his office.

The federal programs officer revealed that MOE percentage varies each fiscal year depending on the level of the entire government resources. For fiscal year 2010, an application to waive the MOE threshold for CNMI will be submitted to the USDOE.

Whether the waiver will be granted or not, Thornburgh said: "It's all up to the USDOE" which will use as tools the government's audit for FY 2010 and other related data that may be requested by the federal agency.

MOE is set to ensure that resources for education is not diminished or shortchanged in all entities. However, the federal government could also approve a waiver based on the factors to be presented by requesting entity such as CNMI. Among these factors is the economic slowdown that may affect an entity's capability to meet the MOE threshold.

Thornburgh said the administration, which acknowledged the MOE determination in 2009 where it owed PSS $11.3 million, hasn't disclosed plans how this obligation will be fulfilled.

PSS received from USDOE $34.2 million in American Recovery Reinvestment Act's state fiscal stabilization fund two years ago. The amount was utilized in school renovations and improvements, retention of teachers, and other programs of the public schools. Under this ARRA grant, MOE is required to be met by the CNMI-PSS.

In the two-year period provided by USDOE to complete all ARRA projects, Thornburgh said PSS has been successful in meeting the goals and deadlines set by the federal government.

Stanley bill legalizes use of 12-gauge shotguns in CNMI

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) is set to introduce a bill legalizing the use of 12-gauge shotguns and shells in the CNMI, saying that laws within all states allow the use of such shotguns.

"The legal use of a 12-gauge shotgun exists in all states with varying rules and regulations regarding the distribution and possession of the shotgun. Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to include 12-gauge shoguns as permissible firearms," Torres said in his House Bill 17-317.

House Bill 17-317 or The Shotgun Amendment Act of 2012 amends 6 CMC 2222 and Section 2301(3) and (4).

Torres' bill also adds a provision prohibiting persons from tampering, modifying, shortening, or lengthening any firearm unless expressly permitted by law.

Torres is also the author of other controversial pieces of legislation including bills legalizing marijuana use for recreational and/or medicinal purpose, and a local bill legalizing casino gaming on Saipan. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 12-031

Opening Date: Wednesday, August 22, 2012
Closing Date: Until Filled

Executive Director

Duties: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is a government utility providing power, water, and wastewater services in the Northern Mariana Islands, a U.S. commonwealth that is about a three (3) hour flight south of Tokyo and about a half hour flight north of the U.S. territory of Guam. Under the direct supervision of the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) OR his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are to: Supervises staff (including prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary decisions). Assumes full management responsibility all CUC's divisions and services. Monitors and evaluates efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery methods and processes; assesses and monitors service delivery levels; identifies opportunities, weaknesses and strengths of divisions; directs the implementation of changes. Plans, directs and coordinates work of divisions through the upper management team by meeting with management to identify, prioritize and resolve problems. Manages the development and implementation of goals, objectives, missions, policies, priorities and allocations of resources. Participates on a variety of board and committees and attends a wide variety of management meetings. Performs short and long-range strategic planning. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

Minimum Requirements:

Required Training and Experience:

- Master's degree in management, engineering, finance, or public administration, OR, in the alternative, a bachelor's degree in engineering and registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in the civil, mechanical, or electrical branch.
- Senior management experience of at least ten (10) years in a similar wastewater, drinking water, and/or power utility (preferably combined utility), with similar or greater capital and operating budgets, capital improvement projects, human resource needs, utility financing issues, operation and maintenance training and implementation needs.
- Proven management and communication skills; demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff; experience with managing major drinking water and wastewater systems during periods of planning, design, and construction; and experience with drinking water and wastewater systems; user fee system development; bond funding; staff training and development; and federal drinking water and wastewater requirements.

Desired Knowledge and Skill:

- Leadership principles; supervisory principles; strategic planning principles; budgetary principles; CUC operations and systems; project management principles; applicable laws, rules and regulations.
- Monitoring and evaluating staff; prioritizing and assigning work to staff; preparing and administering budgets; balancing competing and varying resources and needs; developing and administering strategic plans; managing large, complex projects; giving presentations; preparing technical reports; using computers and related software applications; communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING

Location: Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

Salary: $125,000.00 to $160,000.00 per annum.

(If hired from outside the NMI, relocation costs are negotiable. However: (1) not to exceed $15,000.00 for moving to the NMI and at least one year of employment must be served. Otherwise, employee may be required to refund employer the accommodation. And (2) not to exceed $5,000.00 for moving away from the NMI, and the employee must work to the contract's expiration date. Otherwise, employee may not be provided the accommodation.)

Position: One (1).

Contract: Two-year; subject to renewal.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

NOTICE OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
OF THE CHCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Thursday, August 23, 2012
Time 9:00AM

AGENDA

Call to Order
Quorum
Adoption of Minutes of last Board Meeting
Adoption of Agenda

I. Marianas Public Land Trust Loan (MPLT)
II. Medicaid
a. Certified Public Expense
b. Billing/Reimbursement
III. Charge Master
IV. Reduction in Force
a. Rota
b. Tinian
c. Saipan
V. Closure of Clinics at CHC
VI. Budget for FY 13
VII. Financial Report
a. Accounts Receivable
b. Accounts Payable
VIII. Old Business
IX. Miscellaneous
X. Adjournment

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 Fax: (670) 236-8756

Adopt-A-Bin collected 60K lbs of trash in 2011

» MINA touts success of project

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Adopt-A-Bin project of the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance hauled last year about 60,000 lbs of trash, 45 percent of which are recycled materials, according to executive director Sam Sablan.

Speaking at the general membership meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan, Sablan revealed that the trash were collected from the 17 trash bins that have been installed in various coastal areas on island.

Sablan said an average of 5,000 lbs of trash per bin is collected by their contractor, Ericco Enterprises, on a monthly basis.

Launched in 2010, the Adopt-A-Bin project is a component of the marine debris prevention program that aims to promote the culture of recycling and reduce the trash that may wash out to the coastal areas of the island.

Sablan said that the project originally targeted having seven bins to cover seven popular beach sites.

"Since we initiated the program, businesses have been very supportive in sponsoring these bins. We had additional 10 bins on top of the seven bins that have been distributed and strategically placed in our sites," she said.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance executive director Sam Sablan, right, talks about their Adopt-A-Bin project during the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting yesterday at the Hyatt Regency in Garapan. Looking on is Rotary vice president Laila Boyer.

According to Sablan, one of MINA's sponsors for the project is the Rotary Club of Saipan, which sponsors the bin found at the Garapan Fishing Base.

"Because our program has been so successful due to the contributions from the businesses, we are able to pay for the collections of these recycling bins," she added.

Sablan noted, though, that their environmental group continues to solicit support from the community, particularly the business sector, to help maintain the Adopt-A-Bin project.

"Our community depends on these contributions from businesses and organizations such as the Rotary Club because unfortunately, our government does not provide such services," she said.

For more information about MINA and its various programs and projects, visit their office along Middle Road in between J's Restaurant and the Division of Environmental Quality, log on to www.minapacific.org or call 233-REEF (7333).

IT&E: Service outages due to heavy downpour

As the CNMI experiences heavy rains in the heart of the rainy season, IT&E requests patience and understanding from customers who are experiencing service outages.

Due to the high volume of rain and difficulty working with electrical circuits, IT&E technicians have been unable to assist customers as expediently as they have throughout the year. The nature of reconnection work precludes IT&E technicians from working in downpour conditions leading some IT&E landline customers to experience service interruptions that last longer than customers have typically come to expect.

According to IT&E Plant Technical Service manager, Velma Palacios, delays caused by the CNMI's rainy season are nothing new to companies that operate in the Marianas.

"We experience these weather related delays this time every year," said Palacios. "While the satisfaction of our customers is among our top priorities, we place the safety of our employees above all else."

IT&E appreciates the patience and understanding of all our valued customers while IT&E technicians and service crews work to restore service.

For more information or to report a service outage, contact IT&E Customer Care at 682-4ITE (4483). ***(IT&E)***

DPS sets DUI sobriety checkpoints this weekend

The Department of Public Safety's police and traffic sections will be conducting DUI sobriety checkpoints on the dates and times listed below:

Aug. 24-25

First setup: 8pm-9:15pm, Beach Road Susupe by the Minatchom Atdao pavilion.

Second setup: 11pm-12:15am, Beach Road Garapan across from the Kristo Rai Church.

Aug. 25-26

First setup: 10pm-11:15pm, Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai by XO Market

Second setup: 1am to 2:15am, Beach Road Chalan Laulau by Dr. Kaipat.

Statistics compiled by our office have shown that from the month of October 2011 to July 2012, there were a total of 77 DUI arrests. High number of arrests has been made at the following locations.

- Beach Road, 37
- Chalan Pale Arnold Road, 19
- All other roads, 21

Each sobriety checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes).

This activity is part of the DPS' effort to deter, detect, and apprehend DUI violators, and to ensure that all vehicle occupants are wearing proper restraining devices, seatbelts, or car seats.

In addition, Traffic and Highway Patrol officers will be conducting high visibility enforcement, saturation patrols, and laser (speed detection) enforcement.

For more information, contact Police Sgt. Thomas Blas, Traffic Section, at 664-9022. ***(DPS)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NCLEX REVIEW

Northern Marianas College nursing instructor Hervin E. Jacinto (center) poses for a group photo with participants who recently completed the 2012 National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) Review Course sponsored by the CNMI Area Health Education Center (AHEC) at NMC. The CNMI AHEC program is a program under NMC's Community Development Institute that aims to improve the health of people in the CNMI through education.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC., Plaintiff, -v- **The Estate of MANUEL TENORIO DELA CRUZ, The Estate of MARIA CASTRO DELA CRUZ, CHRISTINE DELA CRUZ TORRES, LINDA DELA CRUZ TOVES, JOSEPHINE CASTRO DELA CRUZ, CHOI CHEOL WON and MOON HAENG LEE,** Defendants.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0093** **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS, CHRISTINE DELA CRUZ TORRES (now known as Christine Torres Igisomar) and JOSEPHINE CASTRO DELA CRUZ:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

DATED, this 15th day of August, 2012:

/s/ Clerk of Court

MEGA POWER COPORATION
A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORHTERN MARIANA ISLANDS CORPORATION

ARTICLE OF DISSOLUTION

Pursuant to 4 C.M.C. § 4603, Mega Power Corporation, A Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Corporation, hereby submits these articles of Dissolution, setting forth the following information requires by statute:

1. Name of Corporation: MEGA POWER CORPORATION
2. Date Dissolution authorized: May 31, 2012
3. The dissolution was approved by The shareholders. Number of votes entitled to cast votes: 100,000 SHARES TOTAL 100,000 SHARES VOTED IN FAVOR OF DISSOLUTION
4. Effective date of dissolution: June 1, 2012

/s/ CHUNG KYUNG SUK
PRESIDENT
MEGA POWER CORPORATION
A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CORPORATION

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Amendment No. 01)

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Special Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Friday, August 24, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- a. Memorandum of Agreement - ADA Compliance Retrofit of Marianas Medical Referral Center

IV. PERSONNEL MATTERS

V. FISCAL AFFAIRS
- a. FY 2012 Financial Statement as of July 31, 2012
- b. FY 2011 Audit Update

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. OTHER MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-GOV-105
Roof Repair & Coating for Tinian Health Center, San Jose Village, Tinian MP

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Roof Repair & Coating for the Tinian Health Center, San Jose Village, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on August 22, 2012 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Mandatory Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on September 10, 2012 at the project site. Bidders are encouraged to visit the site to familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting their bid. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on September 12, 2012, to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB12-GOV-105"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 am Saipan local time, September 24, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 am local time, September 24, 2012, by fax to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than September 24, 2012 and must be received no later than October 1, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, October 2, 2012. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, on September 24, 2012.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P & S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable asses are only:
1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Sixty (60) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred dollars **($200.00)**, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

McDonald's donates $1K to Docomo golf tourney

CLARISSA V. DAVID

McDonald's Saipan general manager Marcia Ayuyu, center, presents a $1,000 check to Docomo Pacific retail operations manager Pauline Johnson, second right, in support of the 3rd Annual Docomo Pacific Golf Classic in a ceremony at McDonald's Mddle Road oulet yesterday morning. With them are from left, McDonald's staffer Angelica Darluio, Docomo Pacific general manager James Nelson, and marketing coordinator Naomi Boone.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Keeping in mind the importance of the tourism industry in the Commonwealth, McDonald's Saipan expressed anew its support for the 3rd Annual Docomo Pacific Golf Classic by donating $1,000 to the tournament which aims to raise funds for the Marianas Tourism Education Council.

Marcia Ayuyu, McDonald's Saipan general manager, presented the check donation to Docomo Pacific general manager James Nelson, retail operations manager Pauline Johnson, and marketing coordinator Naomi Boone in a brief ceremony yesterday at the fastfood giant's Middle Road outlet.

Ayuyu said in an interview that their management team led by her husband, McDonald's president Joe Ayuyu, is happy to donate to the annual golf tournament as it will benefit MTEC, a nonprofit group that involves students in the advancement of tourism industry by raising awareness that "Tourism is Everybody's Business."

"We will all benefit when we help out our tourism industry," said Marcia Ayuyu. "That's why we're happy to be a part of the 3rd Annual Docomo Pacific Golf Classic because it will pave the way in teaching the younger generation about the importance of tourism in our islands."

"We also encourage other businesses to also help raise awareness about tourism because it's really for our own good," she added.

Docomo Pacific's Nelson, for his part, said McDonald's Saipan has always been known as a staunch supporter of youth programs in the community so the donation was "a good fit" for the establishment's advocacy.

"I thank Joe and Marcia for giving their support this year. We've had their support last year but they increased it this year by giving us a $1,000 donation. It's a great fit since we're raising money for MTEC and they are supporting tourism-related programs for high school children," he said.

The 3rd Annual Docomo Pacific is slated for Sept. 1 at the Kingfisher Golf Links. Tee off is at 7:30am. Registration fee is $85 per golfer but Docomo customers get a special rate of $75.

Cash prizes await the top three winners of the tournament, while other exciting prizes, including two brand new cars and $10,000, are up for grabs for the hole-in-one events. A lot of prizes are also at stake for the winners of the raffle draw which is a big hit post-tournament.

Net proceeds of the event will go to MTEC, according to Nelson. "We're shooting for a $10,000 donation this year."

Nelson thanked companies like McDonald's Saipan for their continued support, with some of them increasing their donations this year.

"I think they see good value and good benefit in raising money for future generations and of course, the importance of tourism to this community," he explained. "That's the only industry we got left. We got to do everything to protect our tourism industry and one of the ways is by educating our kids how important it is."

With less than two weeks to go before the weekend golf event, Nelson encouraged all golf enthusiasts to sign up for the tournament right away to facilitate pairing of players. He disclosed that two major clubs in Guam are expected to put together a list of their participants for the event.

For more information, call (670) 483-4924 or email jnelson@docomopacific.com.

NMHC adopts new utility sched for FY2013

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. recently approved the utility allowance schedule for fiscal year 2013.

The new utility allowance schedule, which was approved during the board meeting last Aug. 15, is as follows: $119 for a studio-type unit; $149 for a one-bedroom unit; $180 for a two-bedroom unit; $209 for a three-bedroom unit; $256 for a four-bedroom unit; and $288 for a five-bedroom unit.

NMHC updates its utility allowance schedule at least once a year, based on a 10-percent increase or decrease in the current market rates.

The approved utility allowance schedule, which covers both utility and trash collection, was based on the analysis reported by NMHC to the board, which noted the "significant" increase in the utility rates, particularly in water and sewer.

The analysis took into consideration the levelized energy adjustment clause, or LEAC in August. The new utility allowance schedule would apply beginning Oct. 1.

Board director Tom Glenn Quitugua asked, however, if the utility checks can be "automatically" paid to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to avoid non-payment of utilities resulting from the tenants' use of the allowance for other purposes.

But chair Marcie M. Tomokane and director Diego Songao noted the need to give the tenants responsibility in paying for their utilities.

Acting corporate director Jesse Palacios, for his part, pointed out that the allowance is not meant to cover the tenants' entire utilities expenses. "It's supposed to help them out."

Quitugua also raised the concern that the approved schedule does not take into account the recent increases in fuel prices, which can trigger another surge in the LEAC rate, and the need to revise the utility allowance schedule thereafter.

While NMHC said it will consult with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development field representative regarding the matter, it could potentially tap into its reserves to cover any need to increase the utility allowance.

Chief accountant Roger Dris said that their reserves, amounting to $1.3 million, can be used for voucher-related transactions, including rentals, utility allowance, and administrative costs.

CCA board meeting on Aug. 28

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 28, at 3pm in the CCA conference room located in Gualo Rai.

The agenda includes reports from the president, steering committees, program manager, and program/project updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 22, 2000

US Labor OKs WIA state plan

The US Department of Labor has approved for implementation the Workforce Investment Agency's five-year strategic state plan after a thorough review of the agency's proposed planning process. In a letter to Governor Pedro P. Tenorio, Regional Administrator Armando Quiroz said that the Commonwealth's WIA state plan is consistent with its campaign to transform and reshape the Northern Marianas' workforce development into an educationally- and occupationally-equipped system that meets global challenges. "From studying the plan, it is apparent that the CNMI has made a great commitment to the WIA principle of strengthened partnerships between education, labor, and job training," said the US labor official.

AGO cautions House against land study

The Office of the Attorney General has cautioned the House Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations against the passage of a proposed measure, which seeks to establish the Landlocked Property Commission Act of 2000 without clarifying certain provisions of the bill. Under HB 12-221, the Commission shall study landlocked properties throughout the Commonwealth and report its findings and recommendations to both the Legislature and the governor. While there is no constitutional prohibition on the proposed measure, Assistant Attorney General Elliott A. Sattler said the bill should set the number of individuals that will serve in the commission and appropriate compensation to members who are not government employees.

Aug. 22, 2001

CDA may effect changes in CUC

The Commonwealth Development Authority may have the power to effect changes in key positions at the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation if it wins in a court battle where it seeks to collect more than $100 million dollars in CIP funds from the utility firm. If the court eventually decides in favor of the CDA—and the CUC fails to pay its obligation—the government's lending arm may exercise its power to appoint new officials to ensure that a new management in the utility agency will be committed to pay. This scenario was disclosed by CDA counsel F. Matthew Smith. "CDA can appoint management," he said. Smith said CDA's option was contained in the loan agreements the Authority contracted with the CUC, the legality of which is among the main issues being disputed in civil action 01-248D.

Adriano supports drug tests for elected officials

Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano threw his support behind the plan of Rep. Egredino M. Jones to file a measure that will require CNMI legislators and candidates for public posts to undergo mandatory drug and alcohol testing. "I totally agree that the candidates, including the incumbent ones who are seeking reelection, must be made to undergo such a drug test and the results be submitted to the Board of Elections to be used as a basis for qualifying these persons as candidates," Adriano said. "Once the test shows that you are positive of drug use, then you should be disqualified." He added that ever since the 9th Legislature, both legislative chambers have been required by internal rules to adopt certain internal rules and regulations just before their inauguration. One of these rules required that all members of the Senate should go before a doctor every year, the results of which will be filed for review.

Aug. 22, 2002

Campaign against teen smoking gains ground

One of the largest oil companies in the world, together with the Attorney Generals of 45 states and jurisdictions, is taking on the fight against teen smoking. Attorney Generals across the U.S. disclosed that Exxon Mobil Corporation has voluntarily agreed to implement major new policies at its gas stations worldwide to reduce the sale of tobacco and related products to minors. Here in the CNMI, Attorney General Robert T. Torres made the announcement, saying this move by Exxon Mobil will go a long way toward discouraging teen smoking.

Beautification tax peeves Chamber

Passage of the Environmental Beautification Tax of 2002, or House Bill 13-171, peeved the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, which has consistently expressed objection to the measure. The Chamber opposes the additional tax burden on CNMI businesses and consumers on principle, past assurances, a matter of priority and that no public hearing has been conducted to entertain comments on this new tax, it said in a media statement. The Chamber Board of Directors and the Chamber general membership, as well as the Strategic Economic Development Council, the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association and the Saipan Contractors Association, in separate meetings, listened to a presentation by the CNMI Public Works Department and the Solid Waste task Force on the Environmental Beautification Tax proposition in mid-2001.

Tan Holdings Tree Planting

PHOTOS By CLARISSA V. DAVID

Tan Holdings executives pose for a group photo before the start of the tree planting activity in Koblerville last Aug. 16.

Tan Holdings corporate consultant David M. Sablan.

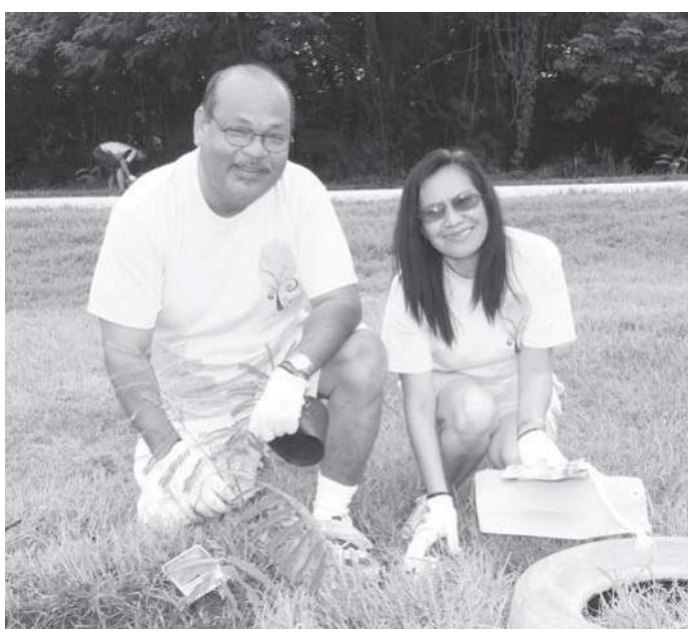
Lina Dimaano, Tan Holdings vice president for finance and Mariana Islands Nature Alliance board member.

Executives of Tan Holdings get their flame tree saplings.

Tan Holdings' Lina Dimaano, center, presents a check donation to MINA as David M. Sablan and Sam Sablan look on.

State forester Vic Guerrero Jr. talks about how flame trees became CNMI's state tree as MINA executive director Sam Sablan holds a flame tree sapling.

A man assists one of the female executives in planting one of the 150 flame tree saplings at the event.



Noel Taisacan and Dheng Angeles smile for the camera.

Tan Siu Lin Foundation's Becky Tenorio, second right, poses with other female executives of Tan Holdings.

Cecil Ramores and Evelyn Lapuz tag the newly planted flame tree saplings.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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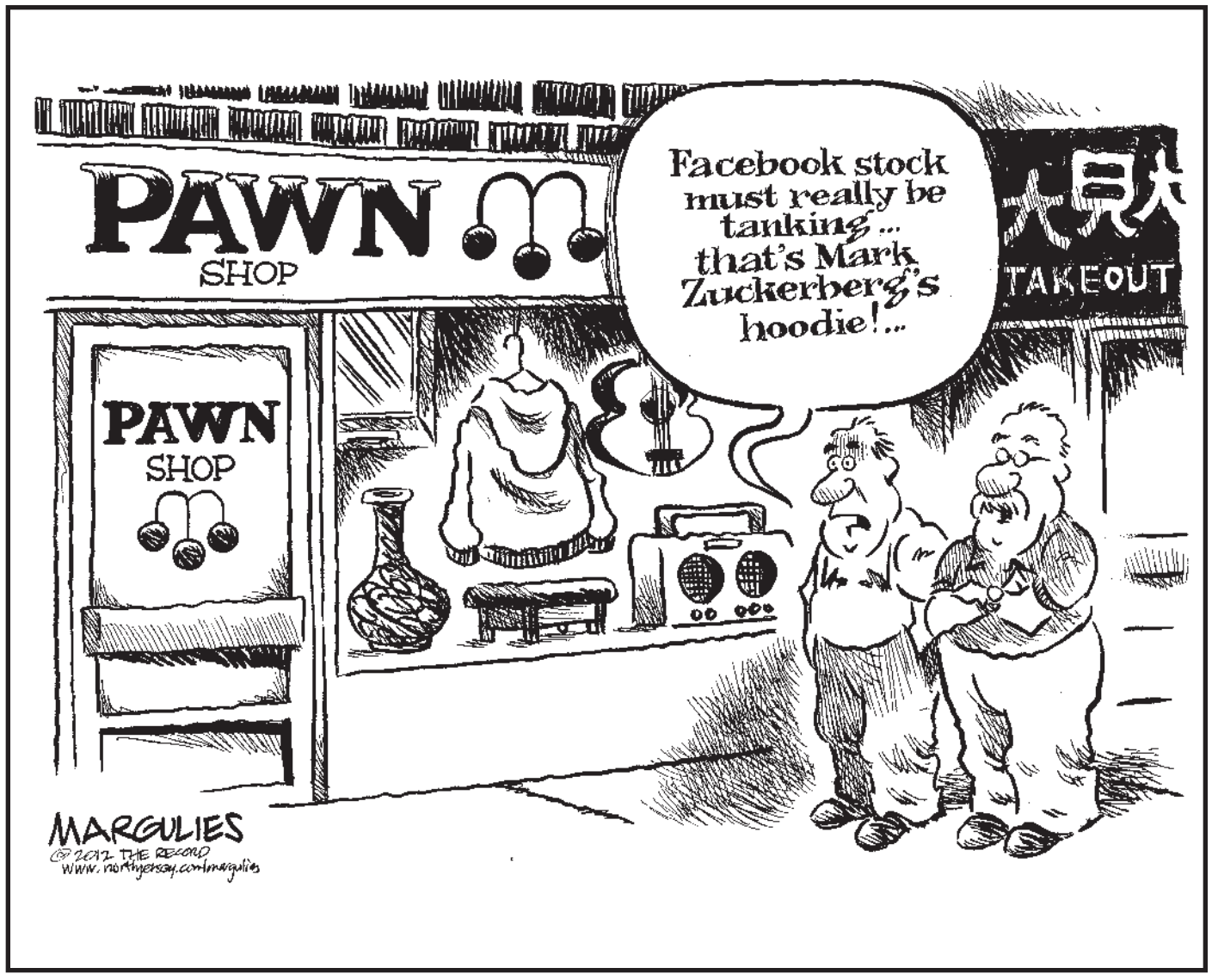
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association



EDITORIAL

Immigration initiative's critics are off-base

Last week featured a rare moment of encouragement in the nation's often tiresome and vindictive immigration debate: Thousands of young undocumented immigrants began applying for temporary permits that will allow them to live and work legally in the United States. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, the result of a policy shift unveiled by the Obama administration in June, is a small but significant step that could help more than a million immigrant students and military veterans who were brought to this country illegally as children and who have lived in fear of deportation since.

But leave it to anti-immigration zealots to find a cloud in this silver lining. For them, any measure of relief for illegal immigrants is too much. Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, for instance, used the week's events to suggest that the program amounted to amnesty and would cost taxpayers millions of dollars to implement.

Neither claim is true.

The program doesn't provide a path to legalization for those young immigrants, as theDream Act, which failed to win approval in Congress, would have done. Instead, it grants a two-year respite from deportation for those who meet various conditions. They must be under 31, have come to the United States before they turned 16 and lived here for at least five years, and have no serious criminal convictions. They also must be enrolled in school, or have graduated from high school or served in the U.S. military. If their applications are granted, they will not be deported for two years, but they do not receive citizenship.

Nor does the program require taxpayers to foot the bill for the application process or for budget shortfalls. Eligible immigrants are required to pay $465 to cover the costs of processing their applications and the fee waivers granted to those living in foster care or acute poverty. Moreover, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Department of Homeland Security agency administering the program, is funded almost entirely by fees paid by immigrants seeking visas or green cards and employers sponsoring workers. Less than 4 percent of the agency's budget is funded by taxpayers. Smith and his fellow Republicans know that.

Finally, critics who worry that immigrants will file fraudulent applications should consider that those applying must provide documents provided by U.S. institutions, such as public schools and the military, as evidence. Surely, the Department of Homeland Security can handle that.

Smith is right about one thing, however. This stopgap measure isn't enough to address the country's immigration problems. Only Congress can do that.

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Uruguay's plan to sell pot may not be that crazy

By ANDRES OPPENHEIMER
The Miami Herald

Andres Oppenheimer is a Latin America correspondent for the Miami Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla. 33132; email: aoppenheimer@miamiherald.com.

Judging from what Uruguay's President Jose Mujica recently told me in an extended interview, there is a real possibility that people in his country will soon be able to buy marijuana legally from a state-regulated company that will be in charge of marketing and selling the drug.

Mujica, 78, earlier this month submitted a bill to congress that may be the boldest marijuana legalization proposal anywhere in the world. It calls for the state to "take over the control and regulation of activities related to the importation, production, acquisition, storage, marketing and distribution of marijuana."

This would go way beyond what countries such as the Netherlands and Portugal have done in recent decades to in effect decriminalize marijuana use. It also dwarfs recent proposals by Guatemalan President Otto Perez Molina—and milder versions by the leaders of Colombia and Mexico—to start an open debate over legalization of drugs.

Are you proposing that the state start selling marijuana? I asked Mujica.

"It's a little bit more profound than that," he answered. "The idea is to take away the market from drug traffickers."

Mujica explained that, nowadays, drug traffickers who sell marijuana in Uruguay often induce young people to consume heavier drugs, such as cocaine paste. That has caused, among other things, a major rise in violent crime in the country.

"We prefer that this market of bland drugs no longer be used as a gateway for the sale of the so-called hard-drugs," Mujica said.

By regulating Uruguay's estimated $40 million-a-year marijuana business, the state will take it away from drug traffickers, and weaken the drug cartels, he said. In addition, the state would be able to keep track of all marijuana consumers in the country, and provide treatment to the most serious abusers, much like is being done today with alcoholics, he said.

Asked whether under his proposal people would buy marijuana in street cafes or kiosks, Mujica said it will be up to the Uruguayan congress to decide that. He added that his bill has a "50-50 chance of passing," but that he is hopeful that a public discussion of it will lead to some variation of it being approved soon.

What about the criticism that a state-run marijuana company would become an inefficient bureaucracy, with high chances of becoming corrupted by the drug trade? I asked.

Mujica, who until now has refused to reveal whether he supports a state or private firm to run the proposed marijuana enterprise, said that "a private company will sell it" under strict government control, much like what happens today with alcohol sales. In other words, the state would hire a private firm to manage the business.

And what about the argument that if this law passes, Uruguay will become a marijuana tourism destination? I asked.

"This will be a mechanism for Uruguayans, who will be registered, and who will have a monthly ration" of the drug, he said, adding that foreigners will not qualify to buy marijuana.

Wouldn't lower marijuana prices lead to an increase in consumption, much like happened with alcohol at the end of the U.S. prohibition era in the 1930s? I asked. Mujica responded that it's a risk worth taking.

When the United States lifted its ban on alcohol, "people at first drank a little bit more, but the fact is that life went on in the United States, and today it's a pretty prosperous nation, isn't it?" he said.

"What we can't afford doing is continuing to play the fools, to look the other way" while consumption of harder drugs and drug-related violence continues, Mujica concluded. "We must try other weapons."

My opinion: When I first read Mujica's proposal to have the state "take over" control of marijuana sales, my first reaction was to fear that Uruguay will create one more inept, state-run bureaucracy filled with government cronies, who will probably end up smoking up the company's income or—worse—selling harder drugs on the side.

But if Mujica's plan is to subcontract a reputable private firm to run the business under state regulations—much like is done with scotch or beer companies—as he said in the interview, the idea may not be that crazy. Its income may help fund education, prevention and treatment programs for harder drugs.

What's clear is that the four-decade-old U.S.-backed war on drugs is not working, and that it's producing tens of thousands of dead across the hemisphere, without significant gains in reducing consumption. Experimenting with new weapons to weaken the cartels may be better than doing nothing.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Fiscal Pearl Harbor implodes

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.*

While we welcome the echo of wind-driven rain gathering storm out west, another storm has made landfall: "Super storm Bankruptcy." It came silently in our presence and torched everything around us into ugly fearfully dark gray ashes.

The fiscal calamity isn't "imminent" as some would like it to be. The beast of neglect is here already rummaging every square inch of the archipelago. It's the equivalence of a "Fiscal Pearl Harbor!" It has imploded and sent key players quizzing, as though ignorant, "what happened?"

Dovetailing the fiscal implosion is the headwinds of famine that has sent simple villagers yearning for leadership, any leadership that understands their fate in the deepening mess. Leadership by simple definition is one's conviction to enhance the livelihood of his people over his very own. This is leadership! Anything else is demagoguery. This is the basis of the raw emotions or outrage of our folks who no longer could tolerate privation.

Surprising, too, how career and new politicians have their eyes closed to the mess before them. Some blind, others mute, the rest are deaf. They pick and choose what's politically convenient, i.e., a fiscal sinkhole! Stunning that they're ready to embrace self-deception once more.

Of lying to yourself

Now in their quest for power or self-importance, they again embrace self-deception or what's known in simple terms as "lying". Telling a lie to the three pronouns you know best of Me, Myself and I has its own advantages too.

You can bravely declare, "I am a handsome, charismatic, brilliant, successful, wonderful person". Then turn right around in submission, "I am also a person who lies to himself—a lot." Oops! It's bravery of the most cowardly form—lying or self-deception.

It forces a query: Why you when there are so many other people to lie to? Or is it reserved until you hit the campaign trail where your lie counts the most—hit far and wide?

But before you hop on the cart before the bull, perhaps you could benefit from self-reflection. Now, if you really think it's easy to lie to yourself, you're lying to yourself. Lying isn't a simple issue. It's far deeper and complicated, according to a Canadian professor of psychology. Said he, "You can only practice self-deception by accessing the 'strong psychological forces' that keep us from acknowledging a threatening truth about ourselves."

Say you convince yourself that you're talented and intelligent to go after your dream to become a policymaker. Believing in this fashion could help you influence others that in fact you're up to the job though completely inadequate by way of credentials. Well, give it your best shot. No one's stopping you from going after your goal with fallacies and inadequacies but at least you've succeeded lying to yourself!

Too, you've given yourself a shot to learning that there's such a thing as "integrity" which floats your boat be it high or low tide!

■ ■ ■

A dark summer in paradise

There was idle talk as the guys burn meat while doing one arm weight lifting with cold beer cans. Jokes and laughter was aplenty and lively.

The conversation however subsided as politicians kept to their thoughts perhaps sensing they're in the wrong place. The still of the night was eerily deafening.

None of them was chancing being heckled by a very dissatisfied and rowdy crowd. The snappy and crappy minions find the barbecue smoke a bit unpleasant.

Dovetailing the fiscal implosion is the headwinds of famine that has sent simple villagers yearning for leadership, any leadership that understands their fate in the deepening mess. Leadership by simple definition is one's conviction to enhance the livelihood of his people over his very own.

The discussion shifted to concrete issues to promote or revive economic growth in the islands recently trashed by foreign investors. This took place when we made doing business here prohibitively expensive.

We did nothing but flush knee-jerk fees and taxes against them mindless that they too are struggling to survive the horrendous cost of utilities. We forced them to think with their feet. They did! And most of them have left. Here we are completely caught off-guard and disoriented by the exodus of foreign capital. I didn't know one could turn ignorance and Missing In Action stunts into an art in the diabolical destruction of a livelihood.

I've read and reviewed an encouraging statement by the board chair of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and quoted it verbatim. He outlined the critical role of education on economic growth especially in a listless economy. Hope it replaces entrenchment in the lack of leadership among key players here.

"The key contributor amidst the economic headwind is in the education of our young people. We must ensure that they have the benefit of skills expansion as they settle to commence their own business startups. It's a must so we wean the local government from massive excess baggage it could no longer afford".

"Private industries must help frame the reality of changing skill needs. It must stand firm on the importance of a rigorous, quality education and proven competency in reading, math, science, communication, and critical thinking. It must collaborate with educators, administrators, and political leaders and be at the table and actively engaged.

"While the core beliefs of private industries include the foundational issues of entrepreneurial growth and opportunity—ideals I believe in strongly—we can achieve little without training and educating today's students with the skills that will be demanded of them in the future. We must all be prepared for lifelong learning.

■ ■ ■

Obama uses signature tool

In 2008, Obama told the country that there's no such a thing as a "red or blue state" because "this is the United States of America". He sounded like one who would unite the union. But he recently started using his signature tool of digging dirt to kick up the faces of his political nemesis. He's turned into a homophobe by detracting from his very poor record on the economy, jobs, and healthcare, and his Washington Bank, among others.

He had to do "divide and conquer" hoping he could derail the discussion of real issues like taking millions of dollars from medicare to support his Obamacare. He refuses to answer questions whether in fact his healthcare plan has inflicted a $716 billion in red ink into the federal coffers. He's ruined responsibility with irresponsibility and cemented lack of accountability. Sad that he's shifted his mantra from a hopeful "yes we can" to lies of "yes I can" as he piles up more lies in political stumps. Call it desperation!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Emergencies are in fashion

These CNMI emergencies take the cake. After not paying CUC for electric power the organizations cash flow is destroyed. So an emergency is declared. After forming a totally new organization with inadequate funds and competent pencil-pushers the hospital falls into chaos. So an emergency is declared.

After years of total neglect and not paying its fair share into the Retirement Fund the manager attempts a Hail Mary in federal court to get the government to come up with the money or take other drastic measures. No one likes the outcome of this little episode. So an emergency is declared.

The CNMI has been somewhat blessed in that it has not experienced a typhoon, tsunami, or other natural disasters for some time. Yet there have been quite a few emergency declarations. Why? One could blame it on the global economic downturn. And of course that does not help the situation. But the main source of revenue, garments, left around 2006. Soon afterwards the emergency declarations started.

Can someone start to put two and two together and see that its time to change the approach that government has been taking? Oh we need outside investors! We need off-islanders with deep pockets to come in and invest. This will save us Who in their right mind would want to come to the CNMI? About 80 percent of the private workforce could be deported within the next five years or less. There is no medical infrastructure. If a worker gets into an accident or becomes seriously ill they may have to be transported off-island. This is prohibitively expensive.

Electric power is expensive when it is available. And the Retirement Fund bankruptcy issue along with private citizens and organizations are owed millions. So there is little trust in the government ever honoring an agreement. I don't even want to touch on the recent banana republic shenanigans. The top Keystone cops on island allegedly help riffraff escape justice at the airport and they are still on the government payroll. Meanwhile the governor purportedly gets into some backroom deal that nobody knows the details about yet it will affect the utility cost until after Christmas 2037. So who would want to invest in this piece of paradise? Another alternative is to downsize government, restructure the revenue system to address the commitments already on the table, and follow the laws already on the books. In short clean up the mess. But this will take new thoughts, new paradigms, possibly new leaders, or at least responsible leaders who will make bold decisions instead of the same old same ole. Or go the path of least resistance declaring occasional emergencies along the way. But remember most emergencies in the CNMI nowadays are caused by irresponsibility. Save the hard decisions for that special rainy day.

Juan Cruz
Austin, Texas

Kilili works for us

With all due respect to Dr. Demapan, do she really need to take "a poll" to know what our problems are? Austerity, CHC, CUC, NMIRF, AG, and cutting funds for PSS.

Right now we have the most accessible public official ever, Congressman Kilili. He doesn't need a poll. He is listening to his constituents all the time. Look at the line of people he meets with face to face at his office. He is accessible by phone (including a toll free number to DC). He is our first Washington official to open offices on Tinian and Rota and frequents visits to both islands.

Kilili reports to us every week in an e-newsletter. Kilili issues constituent reports. Kilili visits students, teachers, our Man Amko, veterans, farmers, the general public to hear what they think.

Kilili responds to e-mails, on Facebook. And I think he has taken a poll or two.

You want accountable? Kilili started town hall meetings in the Northern Marianas and he isn't afraid to take the toughest question or criticism.

Polls are fine. The *Tribune* and *Variety* take polls all the time.

"Who is more credible?" Fitial (176) or Kilili (2,123).

"Do you approve or disapprove of Congressman Kilili's job performance?" Disapprove (187). Approve (1,687).

"Who will you vote for Congress?" Demapan (1,330) or Kilili (5,359)

But the only poll that counts is when we go to the polls on Nov. 6 to vote. Kilili has proven that he listens. He is accountable. And we don't have to ask who he is really working for. We know.

Kilili works for us.

Jose Kiyoshi
San Jose, Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88 ° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

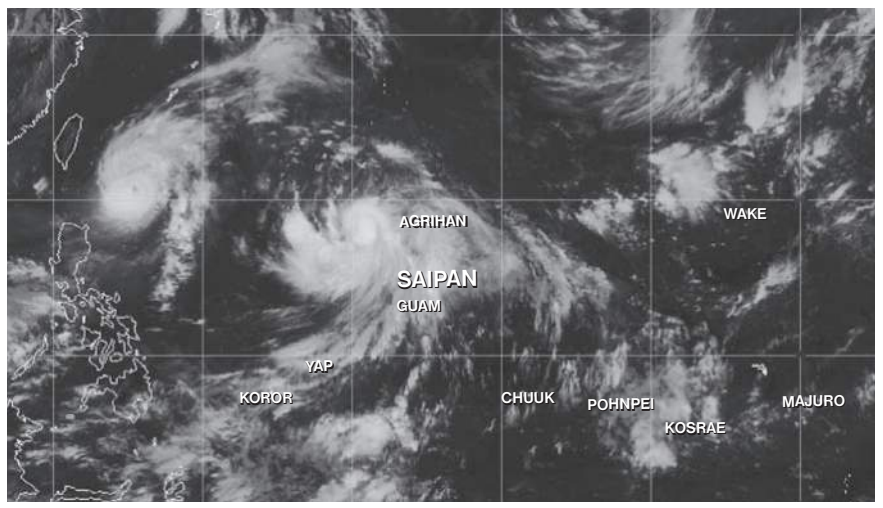
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲62	▼51
Beijing	Sunny	▲85	▼61
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Honolulu	Sunny	▲88	▼76
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼56
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲83	▼64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼79
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼66
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲90	▼78
Paris	Sunny	▲78	▼57
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Rome	Sunny	▲96	▼73
Salem	Sunny	▲78	▼56
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼55
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲80	▼71
Tokyo	Sunny	▲91	▼78
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼70

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical storm Bolaven (16W) is centered 425 miles northwest of Saipan near 18N140E. Tropical storm Bolaven is moving west-northwest at 6 mph with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found primarily east and south of the storm center between 15N and 19N from 136E to 142E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found farther from the center across the Marianas between 13N and 20N from 142E to 150E and near Yap and Koror within 150 miles of a line from 7N134E to 13N142E. Converging winds north of the equator are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Yap and Koror and south of a line from 6N137E to 6N145E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Kosrae and Pohnpei between 2N and 8N from 158E to 165E. A surface trough stretches northeastward from 16N153E to beyond 25N at 166E. An upper-level trough curves westward from 25N165E to 25N152E. These features are combining to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northwest of Wake island within 100 miles of a line from 21N161E to 25N167E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:54 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
11:53 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
5:54 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
11:46 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:34 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:58 AM	9:53 PM
Thursday	10:57 AM	10:44 PM
Friday	11:58 AM	11:38 PM
Saturday	12:58 PM	-
Sunday	-	12:36 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Apple sets record for company value at $624B

NEW YORK (AP)—Apple is Wall Street's all-time MVP -that's Most Valuable Property.

On Monday, Apple's surging stock propelled the company's value to $624 billion, the world's highest, ever. It beat the record for market capitalization set by Microsoft Corp. in the heady days of the Internet boom.

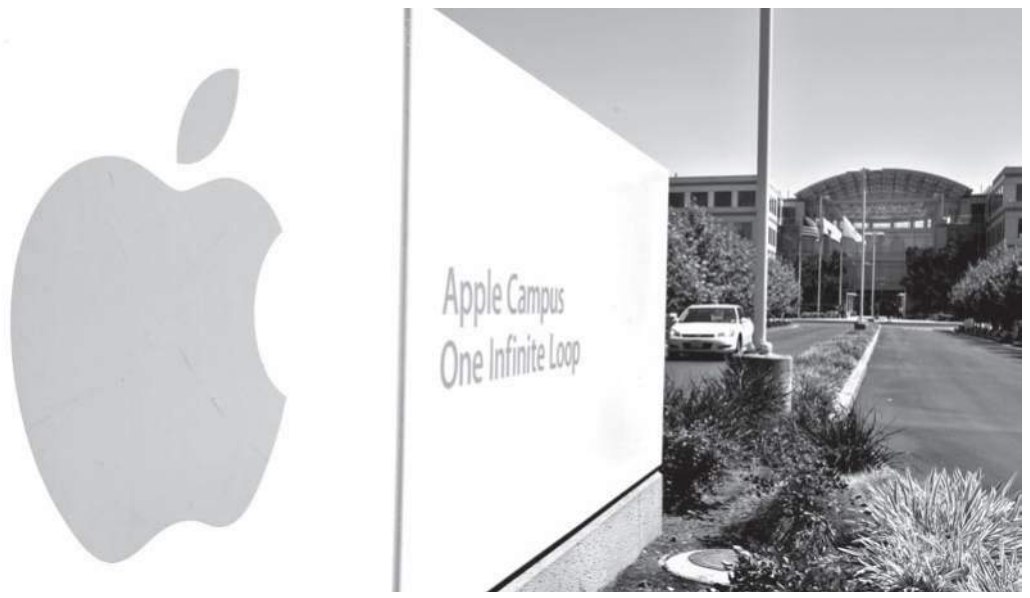
After a four-month dip, Apple's stock has hit new highs recently because of optimism around what is believed to be the impending launch of the iPhone 5, and possibly a smaller, cheaper iPad.

Apple Inc. has been the world's most valuable company since the end of last year. It's now worth 54 percent more than No. 2 Exxon Mobil Corp.

Apple's stock closed at $665.15. That was an all-time high, up $17.04, or 2.6 percent, from Friday's close.

Microsoft's 1999 peak was $620.58 billion, according to Standard & Poor's.

The comparison to Microsoft does not take inflation into account. In inflation-adjusted dollars, the software giant was worth about $850 billion on Dec. 30, 1999. Microsoft is now worth $257 billion.



AP

This Monday, Aug. 20, 2012, photo, shows Apple headquarters in Cupertino, Calif., Monday, Aug. 20, 2012. On Monday, Apple set a new record for the most valuable company at $621 billion, beating Microsoft's 1999 high.

Analysts believe Apple's stock has room to grow. The average price target of 38 analysts polled by FactSet is $745.80.

Despite the surge, Apple's stock is not particularly expensive compared to its earnings for the last twelve months. The company's "price-to-earnings ratio" is 15.6, compared with 16.1 for the S&P 500 overall. That suggests investors, unlike analysts, don't believe the company can grow its profits much from current levels.

Microsoft had a price-to-earnings ratio of 83 at the 1999 peak. The stock was caught up in the Internet mania of the time and investors believed it could boost its future earnings massively.

Analysts believe the launch of a new iPhone in a month or two will be Apple's biggest product introduction yet.

Scott Sutherland at Wedbush Morgan noted that some investors sold Apple shares last summer, when iPhone sales slowed down as consumers started holding off for the new model. Those investors missed out on a 50 percent jump in the stock price.

FHB to be honored with 2012 Community Spirit Award

SEATTLE, Washington—The Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle (Seattle Bank) has named First Hawaiian Bank, headquartered in Honolulu, Hawaii, as the recipient of its 2012 Community Spirit Award.

The award recognizes a member of the Seattle Bank cooperative that exemplifies the spirit of community partnership in creating affordable housing and economic development opportunities in the communities it serves.

"We are very pleased to recognize First Hawaiian Bank with our 2012 award," stated Seattle Bank President and CEO Michael L. Wilson. "Through its membership in the Seattle Bank and strong community partnerships, First Hawaiian has helped to provide nearly $37.9 million of grants and reduced-rate loans to support 1,150 affordable homes." The funding has included: $4.8 million of Seattle Bank Affordable Housing Program (AHP) grants, $33.0 million of Community Investment Program/ Economic Development Fund (CIP/EDF) loans, and $60,000 of Home$tart Program grants.

First Hawaiian Bank

According to First Hawaiian Bank President and CEO Bob Harrison, "First Hawaiian Bank's commitment to serving the community dates back to its founding by Charles Reed Bishop in 1858, and we have used the Seattle Bank's community investment programs for more than 20 years. We rely on these programs because they not only help to create safe, sustainable affordable housing—for seniors, first-time homebuyers, and others in need—but also help to create jobs and to grow our local economy."

First Hawaiian Bank will receive the Community Spirit Award at a ceremony to be held in Hawaii later this year. Invitees will include state and local civic and community leaders and members of the Seattle Bank cooperative. Along with the award, First Hawaiian Bank will receive $5,000 from the Seattle Bank to further its affordable housing mission. ***(FHB)***

Thiel among early Facebook investors selling

NEW YORK (AP)—Peter Thiel, one of Facebook's earliest investors and a member of its board, was among the insiders selling stock in the social network after a lockup expired last week.

A regulatory filing on Monday said that Thiel, a former CEO at PayPal sold about 20 million shares of Facebook through affiliates such as his Founders Fund and other entities last week. The shares were sold on Thursday and Friday for between $19.27 and $20.69, for a total of about $396 million.

Though Facebook's stock has lost nearly half of its value since its initial public offering, Thiel made out well. As one of Facebook's initial investors, he first invested $500,000 in the company in 2004. He sold 16.8 million shares in the company's May initial public offering for about $640 million. With last week's sale, Thiel has now sold most of his stake in the company.

Thursday marked the expiration of the first of several lockup periods barring insiders from selling Facebook's stock following its IPO. All told, investors who owned a combined 271 million Facebook shares became eligible to sell their stock.

Accel Partners, another early investor, said in filings that it distributed stock to its limited partners after the lockup expired. It was not clear from the filings what the partners then did with the shares, though it's likely that some sold based on Facebook's more than 6 percent stock price drop and high trading volume Thursday.

On Monday, Facebook's shares hit a new low of $18.75 before bouncing back to $20.01 by the time the stock market closed. That's up 96 cents, or 5 percent, for the day.

The social networking icon's much-anticipated IPO turned sour amid technical problems on the Nasdaq stock market and high expectations. The stock has not topped its $38 IPO price since its first trading day.

Investors are concerned about Facebook's ability to grow revenue quickly, especially through mobile advertising as users flock to smartphones and tablet computers. There are also looming expirations of the IPO lockup periods. Lockups preventing many Facebook employees from selling stock expire this fall, potentially flooding the market with more shares.

Another 1.66 billion locked-up Facebook shares will be freed up for sale over the next nine months, likely to place more pressure on the stock. One of the biggest tests will come in November when about 1.2 billion insider shares will be eligible for sale.

Summertime blues for drivers: Gas at August record

By SANDY SHORE
AP BUSINESS WRITER

You may pay more than ever for a late-summer drive.

U.S. drivers paid an average of $3.72 per gallon on Monday. That's the highest price ever on this date, according to auto club AAA, a shade above the $3.717 average on Aug. 20, 2008. A year ago, the average was $3.578.

More daily records are likely over the next few weeks. The national average could increase to $3.75 per gallon by Labor Day, said Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at Oil Price Information Service. By comparison, gas prices stayed below $3.70 in late August and early September in both 2008 and 2011.

Retail gasoline prices have gone up about 39 cents per gallon, or 12 percent, since hitting a low of $3.326 on July 2, according to AAA, OPIS and Wright Express. Kloza estimates that U.S. drivers are paying $149 million more each day for gas than in early July. That isn't what the sluggish economy needs, since any extra money that goes to fill gas tanks doesn't get spent at movie theaters or restaurants.

The price at the pump in the U.S. fell more than 60 cents per gallon during the spring when oil fell as the global economy slowed and turmoil in the Middle East seemed to subside.

But oil has risen to $96 per barrel from $78 in late June. Investors have been worried about disruption to oil supplies in the Middle East and North Sea. In the U.S., there were problems with refineries and pipelines in the West Coast and Midwest, including a fire in California. Seasonal factors are also at play: Summer blends of gas cost more and demand goes up as families go on vacation.

Analysts expect prices to drop after Labor Day, so at least drivers shouldn't have to worry about a return to the April high of $3.94 per gallon, barring a hurricane or other unforeseen event.

Bank of Guam promotes Cruz to VP

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam has promoted Reanna R. Cruz to vice president and loan adjustment manager.

Cruz

With the bank for 10 years, Cruz was hired in 2002 as a management trainee. On successful completion of the management training program, Cruz was promoted to pro-assistant cashier, underwriting consumer loan credits for the Bank's Retail Banking Group. In 2004, Cruz was assigned to the Commercial Banking Group where she was promoted to assistant cashier and then assistant vice president, remaining there for seven years. In 2011, Cruz was promoted to assistant vice oresident/loan adjustment manager, where she has been for the last year.

BANK OF GUAM THE PEOPLE'S BANK

A graduate of Notre Dame High School, Cruz received her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Guam in 2001.

Cruz has been a mentor in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guam, and has been a volunteer and member of Kamalen Karidat and Soroptimist International of the Marianas.

In 2011, Cruz was nominated for and won the U.S. Small Business Administration Financial Services Champion of the year.

For additional information, please contact Jackie Marati at 472-5258. ***(BOG)***

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
13,271.64	1,418.13	3,076.21
-3.56	-0.03	-0.38
-0.03%	0.00%	-0.01%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9534	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7567	Philippine Peso	42.3450
British Pound	0.6357	Indian Rupee	55.5950	Singapore Dollar	1.2507
Canadian Dollar	0.9869	Indonesian Rupiah	9,490.00	South Korean Won	1,131.44
Chinese Yuan	6.3596	Japanese Yen	79.3200	Swiss Franc	0.9713
Euro	0.8087	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1315	Taiwan Dollar	29.9650
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2322	Thailand Baht	31.4800

Nation

Missouri congressman fights to save GOP Senate bid

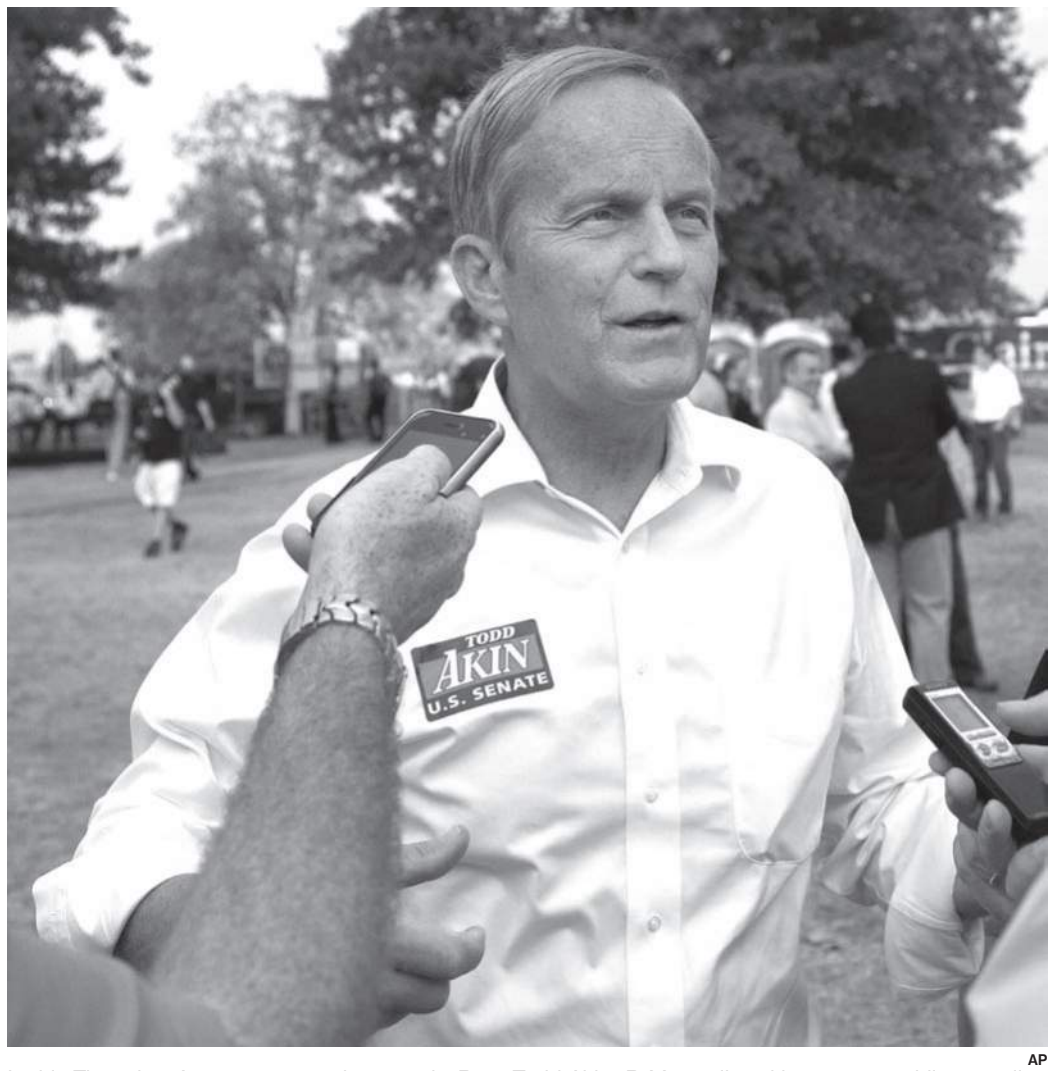
ST. LOUIS (AP)—Rep. Todd Akin fought to salvage his Senate campaign Monday, even as members of his own party turned against him and a key source of campaign funding was cut off in outrage over the Missouri congressman's comments that women are able to prevent pregnancies in cases of "legitimate rape."

Akin made no public appearances but went on former Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee's national radio show to apologize. He vowed to continue his bid for higher office.

"The good people of Missouri nominated me, and I'm not a quitter," Akin said. "To quote my old friend John Paul Jones, I have not yet begun to fight."

But Akin seemed to be losing political support by the hour as fellow Republicans urged him to abandon a race the party had long considered essential in their bid to regain control of the Senate. Incumbent Democrat Claire McCaskill is seen as vulnerable in public opinion polls and because she has been a close ally of President Barack Obama.

An official with the National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee said the group's head, Texas Sen. John Cornyn, called Akin on Monday to tell him that the committee had withdrawn $5 million in advertising planned for the Missouri race. The official spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the conversation was private.



AP

In this Thursday, Aug. 16, 2012 photograph, Rep. Todd Akin, R-Mo., talks with reporters while attending the Governor's Ham Breakfast at the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia, Mo.

At least one outside group that has pounded McCaskill with ads, the Karl Rove-backed Crossroads organization, also pulled its ads from Missouri.

Publicly, Cornyn called Akin's comments "indefensible" and suggested he take 24 hours to consider "what is best for him, his family, the Republican Party and the values that he cares about and has fought for."

The Senate's top Republican, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, said Akin's remarks about rape may "prevent him from effectively representing" the Republican Party.

Two other Republican senators—Scott Brown of Massachusetts and Ron Johnson of Wisconsin—urged Akin to step aside from the Senate race.

Brown, who is locked in a tight race with Democrat Elizabeth Warren, said Akin's comments were "outrageous, inappropriate and wrong."

Johnson called Akin's statements "reprehensible and inexcusable," and urged Akin to withdraw "so Missouri Republicans can put forth a candidate that can win in November."

Akin also got a swift rebuke from the campaign of presumptive GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney and his running mate, Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin.

Romney and Ryan "disagree with Mr. Akin's statement, and a Romney-Ryan administration would not oppose abortion in instances of rape," Romney spokeswoman Amanda Henneberg said.

"Like millions of other Americans, we found them to be offensive," Romney said in an interview with National Review Online.

Obama defends tenor of his campaign, slams Romney

WASHINGTON (AP)—Denounced by his Republican rival for divisiveness, President Barack Obama on Monday defended the tone of his campaign in a combative election year and insisted it's actually Mitt Romney's ads that are "patently false." But Obama did distance himself from a particularly provocative negative ad by a political group that supports him.

Obama also joined the cascade of criticism from both parties for comments on rape and abortion by a Republican Senate candidate in Missouri, using that new controversy to draw sharp distinctions between his views on women's health issues and those of Republicans.

Obama made a surprise visit to the White House briefing room, at least partly upstaging a joint campaign appearance by Romney and his running mate, Paul Ryan, in New Hampshire. The rally by Romney and Ryan, their first appearance together after a week of vigorous campaigning separately, had been highly anticipated, drawing an enthusiastic crowd and wide media attention.

The president turned the day into a long-distance point-counterpoint debate with his opponent. He took questions from four reporters, the most he has taken from the national press corps in two months, dealing to an extent with complaints about his inaccessibility. What's more, the flap over rape-and-abortion remarks by Republican Rep. Todd Akin gave the president a chance to make a direct appeal to women, who both campaigns say make up a majority of undecided voters.

At issue was Akin's answer in an interview that aired Sunday that women's bodies can prevent pregnancies in "a legitimate rape" and that conception is rare in such cases. He later said he misspoke and apologized, but he said he would not get out of the race despite such urging from several prominent fellow Republicans.

As for the tone of the campaign, Obama declared that it was important to draw attention to major differences with Romney, but he said his criticism has never been "out of bounds."

Still, he distanced himself from an ad by the pro-Obama Priorities USA Action super political action committee, which is run by former Obama White House aides.

That ad pointedly notes the death of the wife of a steelworker whose company had been taken over by a group of partners that included Bain Capital, the private equity firm that Romney cofounded.

"I don't think that Governor Romney is somehow responsible for the death of the woman that was portrayed in that ad," Obama said. But he added that he did not approve or produce the ad and said it had had only a brief airing on television.

Autopsy: Man shot in police car had meth in system

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—A man police say shot himself in the head while his hands were cuffed behind him in the back of an Arkansas patrol car tested positive for methamphetamine, anti-anxiety medication and other drugs, according to an autopsy report released Monday that listed his death as a suicide.

The state crime lab report said the muzzle of a handgun that Chavis Carter apparently concealed from arresting officers was placed against his right temple when it was fired. The report, signed by three medical examiners, included a drug analysis showing Carter's urine and blood indicated methamphetamine and other drug use.

The report, released to The Associated Press and other news organizations under a Freedom of Information Act request, said Carter's blood also tested positive for at least trace amounts of the anti-anxiety medication diazepam and the painkiller oxycodone. His urine test also returned a positive result for marijuana.

The report said Carter's death was ruled a suicide based on autopsy findings and investigative conclusions from the Jonesboro Police Department, which has faced questions from Carter's family and community members about the circumstances surrounding the July 28 shooting.

"He was cuffed and placed into a police car, where apparently he produced a weapon, and despite being handcuffed, shot himself in the head," the report said.

Benjamin Irwin, a Memphis, Tenn., lawyer representing Carter's family, declined to comment on the specifics of the toxicology report, calling instead for police to release details of any gunpowder residue or other such tests.

"If those tests were taken ... what were the results?" Irwin asked.

Police have said officers frisked Carter, 21, twice after a traffic stop without finding a gun before he was fatally shot, but the department's internal investigation continues. The FBI also is monitoring the case and the local branch of the NAACP has called for a thorough investigation into the death of Carter, who was black. Two other men who were in a truck with him during the stop and the two officers who were on the scene are white, according to police.

The autopsy report comes days after police released dashboard camera video recorded the night Carter was shot in Jonesboro, about 130 miles northeast of Little Rock. Part of the video showed Carter being patted down and ended before officers found Carter slumped over and bleeding in the back of a patrol car as was described in a police report. Police later released additional video they said was recorded after Carter was found.

ACROSS THE NATION

Huge wildfire burns to edge of 3 small towns in CA

MANTON, Calif. (AP)—A huge wildfire sparked by lightning in Northern California burned to the edge of three small towns Monday, threatening thousands of homes as fearful residents sought safety miles away at an emergency shelter. "All we can do is pray," evacuee Jerry Nottingham told reporters. The fast-moving Ponderosa Fire was one of many burning across the West, where lightning, dry temperatures and gusting winds have brought an early start to fire season. Nearly 1,900 firefighters were battling the Ponderosa Fire in rugged, densely forested terrain as it threatened 3,500 homes in the towns of Manton, Shingletown and Viola, about 170 miles north of Sacramento.

11-mile stretch of Mississippi River closed

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Nearly 100 boats and barges were waiting for passage Monday along an 11-mile stretch of the Mississippi River that has been closed due to low water levels, the U.S. Coast Guard said. New Orleans-based Coast Guard spokesman Ryan Tippets said the stretch of river near Greenville, Miss., has been closed intermittently since Aug. 11, when a vessel ran aground. Tippets said the area is currently being surveyed for dredging and a Coast Guard boat is replacing eight navigation markers. He says 40 northbound vessels and 57 southbound vessels were stranded and waiting for passage Monday afternoon.

Woman accused of Wal-Mart worker punch faces trial

BATAVIA, N.Y. (AP)—A western New York woman who's accused of punching a 70-year-old Wal-Mart employee in the face on Christmas Eve is about to stand trial. Jacquetta Simmons was charged with two counts of felony assault but one of those was reduced last week to a misdemeanor. Nevertheless, the 26-year-old faces up to seven years in prison after being charged under New York state's "Granny Law." The law makes it a felony to injure someone 65 or older if the defendant is at least 10 years younger than the victim.

Asia

AP

In this photo released by the Malacanang Photo Bureau, divers scour an area for traces of plane debris as search continues for Philippine Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo and two pilots who went missing after their plane crashed into the sea off the waters of Masbate city, Masbate province, central Philippines, Sunday, Aug. 19, 2012.

Body of PH minister in plane crash found

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The body of Philippine Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo was found and retrieved early Tuesday from the sea off a central province where his small plane had crashed three days earlier, officials said.

Robredo's body was pulled out from the overturned fuselage of the twin-engine Piper Seneca, about 55 meters (180 feet) underwater and around 800 meters (yards) off Masbate province, Transport Secretary Mar Roxas said.

Roxas said the bodies of the plane's Filipino pilot and Nepali student pilot were jammed inside the cockpit and would be retrieved later.

"At 7:25 this morning, our volunteer divers found the fuselage with bodies inside," a visibly emotional Roxas, his voice breaking, told reporters in Masbate.

Robredo, 54, was heading to his hometown of Naga City on Saturday from central Cebu City, where he had met with local officials, when one of the plane's engines stalled 30 minutes into the flight. The plane crashed as it attempted an emergency landing at the Masbate airport, about 380 kilometers (235 miles) southeast of Manila, Roxas had said earlier.

An aide of Robredo made a dramatic escape from the plane as it sank and was rescued by fishermen and later helped in the search, Roxas said.

The massive search involving 600 coast guard, police and military personnel backed by dozens of civilians ended after a foreign deep sea volunteer diver saw the wreckage.

Myanmar government ends direct media censorship

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar abolished direct censorship of the media Monday in the most dramatic move yet toward allowing freedom of expression in the long-repressed nation. But related laws and practices that may lead to self-censorship raise doubt about how much will change.

Under the new rules, journalists will no longer have to submit their work to state censors before publication as they for almost half a century. However, the same harsh laws that have allowed Myanmar's rulers to jail, blacklist and control the media in the name of protecting national security remain unchanged and on the books.

For decades, this Southeast Asian nation's reporters had been regarded as among the most restricted in the world, subjected to routine state surveillance, phone taps and censorship so intense that independent papers could not publish on a daily basis. President Thein Sein's reformist government has significantly relaxed media controls over the last year, though, allowing reporters to print material that would have been unthinkable during the era of absolute military rule—like photographs of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The Information Ministry, which has long controlled what can be printed, made the announcement on its website Monday. The head of the ministry's Press Scrutiny and Registration Department, Tint Swe, also conveyed the news to a group of editors in the country's main city Yangon. The move had been expected for months but was repeatedly delayed as the government struggles to draft a new media law to overhaul the industry here.

ASIA BRIEFS

SKorea-US war drills begin amid North's protest

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea and the United States have begun annual military drills that North Korea calls a precursor to war. The U.S. says the two-week Ulchi Freedom Guardian drills started Monday with more than 80,000 troops from the U.S., South Korea and seven countries that fought with them in the 1950-53 Korean War. Pyongyang has repeatedly threatened to attack Seoul over perceived insults and denounces the exercises as preparation for a pre-emptive attack. Seoul is still angry over a North Korean rocket launch in April that the United Nations called a front for a banned long-range missile test. North Korea says it was a satellite launch.

Top US general in Afghanistan to discuss attacks

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The U.S. military's top general met with American, coalition and local officials in Afghanistan on Monday to try to stop a wave of lethal attacks by Afghan soldiers and police against international forces. Once an anomaly, attacks on international troops from inside the Afghan security forces have been climbing in recent months. There have been 32 such attacks so far this year, up from 21 for all of 2011, according to NATO. U.S. Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, landed at Bagram Air Field outside Kabul earlier in the day. Dempsey and the chief of U.S. Central Command, Marine Gen. James R. Mattis, met with NATO and U.S. Afghan commander Gen. John Allen in Kabul and discussed the progress of the Afghanistan campaign, a statement issued by the coalition said.

6 dead in earthquake on northern Indonesian island

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The death toll rose to six on Monday from a powerful weekend earthquake in Indonesia as rescuers reached mountainous villages that had been cut off by landslides, officials said. At least 43 others were injured, including eight in critical condition. The magnitude-6.3 quake struck Saturday evening near Palu city on Sulawesi Island as residents were ending their fast on the final day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Sutopo Purwo Nugroho of Indonesia's Disaster Management Agency said rescuers with heavy equipment and bulldozers were clearing the roads to at least 14 villages in Sigie district that were blocked by landslides.

World

Syria airstrikes, shelling kill 100 during holiday

TEL RIFAT, Syria (AP)—Government forces pummeled the battered city of Aleppo with airstrikes and tanks and shelled parts of Damascus and southern Syria Monday, killing at least 100 people during a major Muslim holiday, rights groups and activists said.

The violence escalated dramatically after a one-day lull on Sunday, the start of the three-day Eid al-Fitr holiday which marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan. The renewed fighting showed President Bashar Assad's regime is not letting up on its drive to quell the 17-month-old uprising out of respect for the occasion.

In Washington, President Barack Obama said U.S. thinking on military involvement in Syria would change if chemical or biological weapons came into play in the civil war. He told reporters the use of such weapons of mass destruction would widen the conflict considerably.

"It doesn't just include Syria. It would concern allies in the region, including Israel, and it would concern us," Obama said, warning the Assad regime and "other players on the ground" that the use or movement of such weapons would be a "red line" for the United States. The U.S. has been reluctant to intervene militarily so far.

Last month, the Syrian regime confirmed for the first time that it possessed chemical weapons by threatening to use them in case of any foreign aggression. The warning was seen as a sign of desperation as Assad's grip on power slipped. It came shortly after rebels assassinated four of the president's top security officials, the biggest blow to the regime in the entire uprising.

Since the holiday began on Sunday, an air of gloom has blanketed the nation and activists said there have been no signs of jubilation.

Adding to the despair, two main activist groups—The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and the Local Coordination Committees—said that 12 bodies shot execution style were found in the Qaboun district in the capital Damascus. Activist Omar al-Khani said the bodies, which included two children, were found on the side of a road with clear signs of torture on their bodies. Some were naked, others handcuffed.

The discovery of bodies in similar condition is not uncommon in Syria, particularly in the last few months as the uprising descended into a civil war with heavy sectarian undertones.

Most of the deaths Monday were a result of tank and mortar shelling as well as clashes in the Damascus suburbs of Daraya and Moadamiyeh, where some activists reported the regime used helicopter gunships. The Observatory and others said up to 31 people were killed.

An activist, El-Said Mohammed, said some 30 troops along with a tank defected to the rebels' side in Moadamiyeh on Sunday, which may have been the reason for Monday's shelling.

Mohammed spoke by Skype from the Damascus area. His information could not be verified.

Both the Observatory, which relies on a network of activists on the ground, and the LCC, reported at least 100 civilian deaths across the country, a heavy toll for a single day. Anti-regime activists say some 20,000 people have been killed since the revolt against Assad's rule began in March 2011.

The rights groups and activists said the latest assaults by tanks and warplanes caused two houses to collapse in Aleppo, Syria's largest city, killing at least 14 people.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi dead at 57

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—Meles Zenawi, Ethiopia's long-time ruler who held tight control over this East African country but was a major U.S counter-terrorism ally, died of an undisclosed illness after not being seen in public for weeks, Ethiopian state television said Tuesday. He was 57.

Meles died Monday just before midnight after contracting an infection, state TV announced Tuesday. Hailemariam Desalegn, who was appointed deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs in 2010, is now in charge of the Cabinet, state TV said.

Meles hadn't been seen in public for about two months. In mid-July, after Meles did not attend a meeting of heads of state of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, speculation increased that his health problems were serious.

Ethiopian officials gave no details and said the prime minister was in "very good" health and would return to office soon, but international officials said quietly it was unlikely he would recover.

State TV on Tuesday showed pictures of Meles as classical music played in the background.

Born on May 8, 1955, Meles became president in 1991 and prime minister in 1995, a position that is both the head of the federal government and armed forces.

The U.S. has long viewed Meles as a strong security partner and has given hundreds of millions of dollars in aid over the years. U.S. military drones that patrol East Africa—especially over Somalia—are stationed in Ethiopia.

Though a U.S. ally, Ethiopia has long been criticized by human rights groups for the government's strict control. Dissent is met with a strict government response.

During Meles' election win in 2005, when it appeared the opposition was likely to make gains, Meles tightened security across the country, and on the night of the election he declared a state of emergency, outlawing any public gathering as his ruling party claimed a majority win. Opposition members accused Meles of rigging the election, and demonstrations broke out. Security forces moved in, killing hundreds of people and jailing thousands.

Cholera emergency declared in Sierra Leone

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP)—An outbreak of cholera in West Africa has infected more than 13,000 people and killed at least 258 people in Sierra Leone and Guinea, authorities said as they appealed for international assistance.

Sierra Leone's President Ernest Bai Koroma has declared the outbreak there an "emergency issue," and has set up a task force to prepare the budget that will be needed to stem the outbreak.

"All of this is the aftermath of the 11 years rebel war when we had a huge rural-to-urban migration and a huge population clustered in the urban area where adequate provision has not been made for water and sanitation. This is what we have been witnessing today," Minister of Health and Sanitation Zainab Hawa Bangura told The Associated Press.

She said that in the capital, Freetown, there have been about 100 deaths during the past month, especially in congested areas. That brings the total to at least 176 dead in Sierra Leone, while 82 deaths have been reported in neighboring Guinea.

"It is important to request help from the international community in order to spread the mobilization of resources," she said.

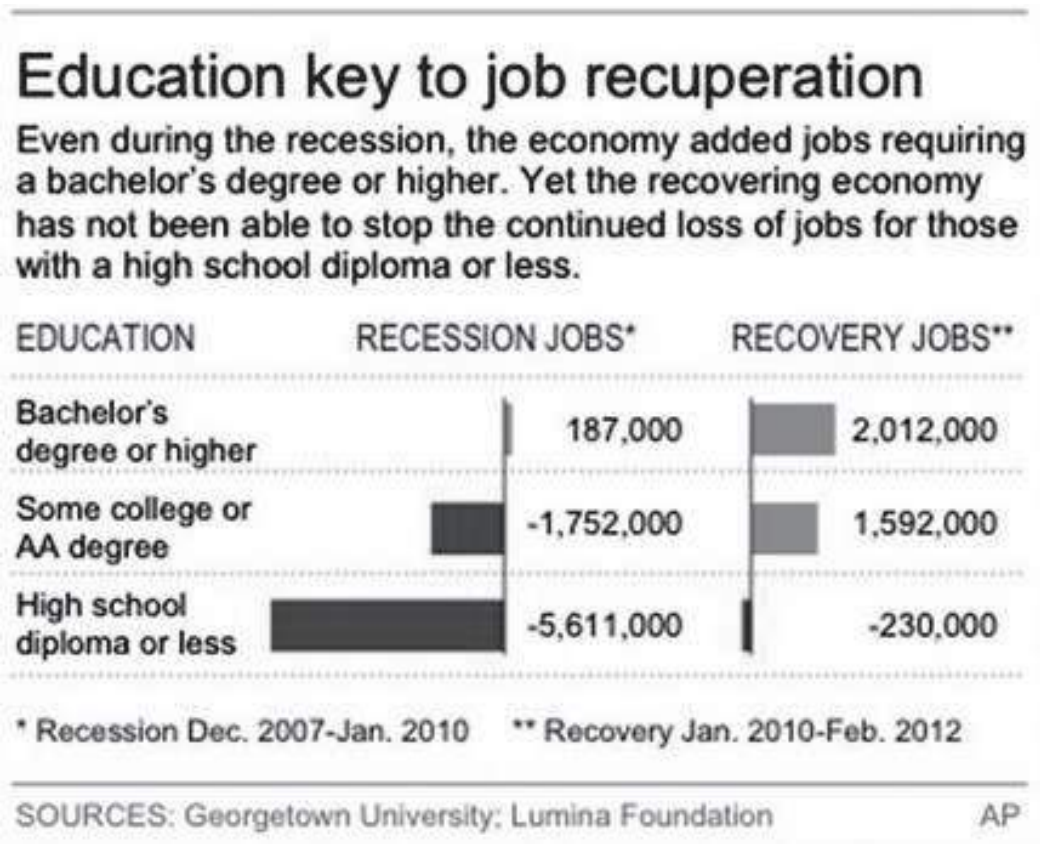
Cholera is an infection of the small intestine, contracted by eating or drinking contaminated food or liquids. It can cause acute diarrhea and vomiting and can kill within hours.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said there has been a spike in reported cholera cases since mid-July and the onset of the rainy season. Over the past five weeks, 6,000 cases alone have been confirmed in Sierra Leone and many other cases might not been officially reported.

Campus Life

Analysis: New studies weigh college value and cost

By JUSTIN POPE
AP EDUCATION WRITER


Education key to job recuperation
Even during the recession, the economy added jobs requiring a bachelor's degree or higher. Yet the recovering economy has not been able to stop the continued loss of jobs for those with a high school diploma or less.
EDUCATION
RECESSION JOBS*
RECOVERY JOBS**
Bachelor's degree or higher
187,000
2,012,000
Some college or AA degree
-1,752,000
1,592,000
High school diploma or less
-5,611,000
-230,000
* Recession Dec. 2007-Jan. 2010
** Recovery Jan. 2010-Feb. 2012
SOURCES: Georgetown University; Lumina Foundation
AP

Two new studies offer emphatic answers to much-discussed questions about higher education: Yes, a college degree is worth it, but yes, it's the middle-class that's getting particularly squeezed with student debt in the pursuit of one.

Both studies make persuasive cases, though each could be misunderstood without important context.

The first, released last week by the Lumina Foundation and Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce, seems to thoroughly demolish the idea that the Great Recession diminished the value of a college degree. Yes, recent college grads have struggled more than usual to find jobs matching their training. But overall, even as unemployment was rising past 10 percent, the authors found the economy actually added 200,000 jobs for workers with a bachelor's degree. Since the recovery began, it's created 2 million more.

Just as there wasn't really a recession, at least in terms of job creation, for those with college degrees, there hasn't been a recovery for those without them. Nearly 6 million high-school-only jobs have been lost since the downturn began, and they are still declining even in the recovery.

That recovery may well never come if you have no college at all (though people with some college have done reasonably well of late).

"This is the clearest information that we have seen to date about the advantage of having college-level skills in the employment market," said Lumina's president and CEO Jamie Merisotis. "Since the recovery started two years ago we've seen a real acceleration. The gap between those with a college credential and those without one is growing."

The unemployment rate for all four-year graduates is 4.5 percent. For recent graduates, it's 6.8 percent. For recent graduates trying to work with only a high school diploma, it's nearly 24 percent.

In construction and manufacturing, which accounted for two-thirds of all Great Recession job losses, virtually all of the hiring during the recovery has targeted people with bachelor's or at least associate's degrees. Despite the hit those industries took, there are now about as many jobs in them as before the recession overall. But there are 15 percent fewer jobs for those with only high school in manufacturing, and 25 percent fewer in construction.

Overall, the number of jobs for people with at least some college is growing at a healthy 4 percent annually. But the growth rate for high school-only jobs is zero and those jobs remain 10 percent below their pre-recession levels.

Still, there is another variable needed to answer the question, "Is college worth it?" That's the cost of college, and that has been rising rapidly.

On average, the answer is pretty clear: A degree is worth it, to the tune of $1.3 million in additional lifetime earnings, a very good return on even an expensive degree.

But, as Georgetown's Anthony Carnevale acknowledges, there's no such thing as a generic bachelor's degree. Where you study, and what you study, matter a lot.

"What people shouldn't take away from this is you can get any old BA or AA," Carnevale said. "They need to get past that. They need to think about which degree and what it will it do for them."

As many as one in five undergraduate degrees—for instance in counseling, at least for those who don't go on to get a master's—produce average earnings no greater than those of a high school graduate. Many types of AA degrees produce better average earnings than some bachelors. The research paints a powerful portrait of an economy where more education is better, but the kind of education matters too.

The second study, being presented Monday at the American Sociological Association's annual meeting in Denver, highlights the particular burden of growing student debt on middle-class families, who may be too well off to qualify for financial aid like Pell Grants that target students from the poorest families.

ON THE NET
http://www.luminafoundation.org/newsroom/news-releases/2012-08-15.html

In the study, University of Wisconsin demographer Jason Houle finds students from middle-income families rack up more student loan debt on average than others: not only students from high-income families—no surprise—but also than those from low-income families.

About 40 percent of students left school with debt, and the average was about $22,000. But students from families earning between $40,000 and $59,000 were saddled with $6,000 more on average than peers from families earning less than $40,000. Students from the next tier—family income between $60,000 and $99,000—had $4,000 more in debt than their lowest-income peers.

One reason is that federal grant aid targets the lowest-income students—roughly 90 percent who receive Pell Grants come from families earning under $50,000. Lower-income students may be also be more debt-averse, causing those who go to college to choose cheaper schools.

But the figures reinforce the struggles of families just above the bottom level to afford even the average public 4-year college, with tuition plus room and board (before factoring in financial aid) now running more than $17,000 per year.

"These kids, even though they have pursued the American dream, they're starting their careers with hugely unequal amounts of student loan debt," Houle said. "That could be the difference of a kid who can take an unpaid internship that would put their career on an upward trajectory."

The caveat with Houle's study is that he looked only at people who attended some college.

As Houle acknowledges, while those from low-income families who go to college may get out of school with less debt, poorer students are still less likely to go in the first place. If the Georgetown survey shows anything, it's that graduating with a moderate amount of student debt is still much better than not graduating.

So the lesson isn't necessarily that the lowest-income students are better off overall: Just 8 percent of those from families in the bottom income quartile (under about $36,000) have earned a bachelor's degree by age 24, compared to more than 82 percent from the top quartile (roughly $108,000).

But Houle's study does illustrate the serious bind of families above the very bottom (earning between roughly $36,000 and $65,000). Just 17 percent of those students earn a degree by 24, and they're racking up more debt in the process.

Justin Pope has covered higher education for the AP since 2004.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

MHS orientation tomorrow

Marianas High School will be holding an orientation for all incoming freshman and new and transfer students tomorrow, Aug. 23, 9am in the MHS Gym.

We encourage parents and guardians to also attend because there will be policies and important information that will be shared. During the orientation, students will also be getting their picture taken for their student ID. Should you have any questions, please call the school at 237-3206/3/5. ***(PR)***

SSHS sets important dates for start of school year

Saipan Southern High School will hold its first day of classes for school year 2012-2013 on Sep. 4, 2012.

Students must be on campus by 8am. Classes starts at 8:30am and dismissal is at 3pm. All new students enrolling at SSHS for school year 2012-2013 must complete and submit a registration form.

Registration forms are available in the registrar's office or main office. All returning students who attended SSHS last year must return all textbooks and settle all obligations with the school, before you can pick up your class reschedule.

Schedules are to be picked up at the Counseling office are as follows:

■ 12th grade: Aug. 22, 2012 9am-4pm

■ 11th grade: Aug. 23 9am-4pm

■ 10th grade Aug. 24 9am-4pm

All transfer and new students enrolling at SSHS SY2012-2013 in grades 10,11, and 12 are required to attend an orientation on Aug. 28 from 1pm to 3pm with their parents or legal guardians.

No students will be allowed to attend the orientation without parents or legal guardians in attendance. Incoming freshman students orientation will be held on two different session to accommodate parents or legal guardians work schedules. Both sessions are on Aug. 28 from 9am to 11am and 1pm to 3pm.

For more information, call SSHS principal Jesse Tudela at 237-3702 or the main office at 664-4000/ 237-3710. ***(PR)***

GTC important school events/dates:

■ Parent orientation: There will be a parent orientation for new and returning parents to communicate changes and expectations for SY 2012-13. Orientation will be on Friday, Aug. 17, 2012 at 5pm (approximately an hour). School supply listing and free meal application will be available.

■ Kindergarten Reading First Assessment (RFA) Screening Test: All in-coming kindergarten students will be tested with the RFA by his/her kindergarten teacher. The screening test is approximately 15-20 minutes. Scheduled testing time and date have been made with parents. Please do not miss your scheduled testing date. For your date and time, you may call, 237-3121 and ask for Ms. Angie. RFA testing days are Aug. 20-22, 2012 between 8:30am and 11:30am.

■ Kindergarten orientation: There will be an orientation for all kindergarten parents and students. This is an opportunity for you and your child to meet your child's kinder teacher and answer any questions you may have. Expectations about home-school partnership will also be shared. Kinder orientation is on Thursday, Aug. 23, 2012 beginning at 5pm to 6pm.

■ First Day of School: Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012. Classes start promptly at 8am and ends at 2pm.

■ Back to School Open House: Friday, Sept. 7, 2012 at 5pm. We will convene in the cafeteria and then disperse into your child's classroom.

■ School Supply List for Kindergarten to 6th Grade: Is available at National Office Supply and Modern Stationery. ***(PR)***

UOG course: Changing trends in the hospitality industry

Registration is open for Changing Trends in the Hospitality Industry, level 1. Taught by UOG Professor Fred Schumann, this 15 contact hour course can be used to satisfy training requirements for those businesses that hold Qualifying Certificates. This online course is designed for tourism industry employees who seek advancement to the supervisory or management level and runs Aug. 27-31, 2012. The cost is $180. Register online at http://www.regonline.com/Hospitality_Online. For more information contact cmoore@uguam.uog.edu or call 735-2600/1. ***(PR)***

WSR school uniform orders no ongoing

William S. Reyes Elementary School uniform orders are now open for school year 2012-2013. Stop by the main office to order. T-shirt sizes youth XS-XL and adult small-XL is $10 each and adult XXL is $12 each. Deadline to order uniform is today, Aug. 22, 2012. ***(PR)***

KagES grade 5 and 6 students orientation on Aug. 27

Kagman Elementary School will have a special orientation for 5th and 6th grade students on Monday, Aug. 27, from 3pm to 4pm at the Kagman Elementary School cafeteria.

The agenda will address double session class schedules and attendance is required. For more information, call 237-3965 or 237-3074. ***(PR)***

Life & Style

Humorist Phyllis Diller dies at 95 in Los Angeles

AP

In this May 20, 1966 file photo, comedian Phyllis Diller appears in character in the ABC-TV comedy series "The Pruitts of Southampton".

NEW YORK (AP)—Some of the most promising talent in show business was on the bill one day and night in 1955 at San Francisco's Purple Onion:

Eartha Kitt and Alice Ghostley; Paul Lynde and Robert Clary; a singer and dancer with the stage name Maya Angelou, and an eccentric former housewife, a few years older than her fellow performers, with the married name Phyllis Diller.

Angelou's family, including two small children (Clyde and Joyce), were seated in the front row. Years later, she would remember watching Diller and wondering how her guests would respond to her friend's "aura of madness."

"Black people rarely forgave whites for being ragged, unkempt and uncaring. There was a saying which explained the disapproval, `You been white all your life. Ain't got no further along than this? What ails you?'" Angelou wrote in "Singin' and Swingin' and Getting Merry Like Christmas," a memoir published in 1976.

"When Phyllis came on stage Clyde almost fell off the chair and Joyce nearly knocked over her Shirley Temple. The comedienne, dressed outrageously and guffawing like a hiccoughing horse and a bell clapper, chose to play to the two children. They were charmed and so convulsed they gasped for breath."

The housewife soon became a star.

"AH-HHAAAAAAAAAAAA-HA-HA-HA!

Diller, the cackling template for Joan Rivers, Sarah Silverman and so many others, died Monday morning in her Los Angeles home at age 95. She faced the end, fittingly, "with a smile on her face," said longtime manager Milton Suchin.

Diller, who suffered a near-fatal heart attack in 1999, was found by her son, Perry Diller. The cause of her death has not been released.

She wasn't the first woman to crack jokes on stage; Gracie Allen had been getting laughs for decades playing dumb for George Burns. But Diller was among the first who didn't need a man around. The only guy in her act was a husband named "Fang," who was never seen and didn't exist.

"We lost a comedy legend today," Ellen DeGeneres wrote on Twitter. "Phyllis Diller was the queen of the one-liners. She was a pioneer." Tweeted Barbra Streisand: "I adored her. She was wondrous spirit who was great to me." Rivers added that she and her daughter had lunched with Diller last month.

"I'm beyond saddened by the death of Phyllis Diller. We were friends," Rivers wrote. "The only tragedy is that Phyllis Diller was the last from an era that insisted a woman had to look funny in order to be funny."

The Friars Club released a statement noting that in 1988 Diller was among the first women admitted—legitimately. A few years earlier, she had snuck in for a Sid Caesar roast, dressed as a man.

Born Phyllis Driver in Lima, Ohio, she married Sherwood Diller right out of school (Bluffton College) and was a housewife for several years before getting outside work. She was an advertising writer for a radio station when the Purple Onion helped launch her. She made her network TV debut as a contestant on Groucho Marx's game show, "You Bet Your Life."

Diller, asked if she was married: "Yes, I've worn a wedding ring for 18 years." Marx replied: "Really? Well, two more payments and it'll be all yours."

She credited the self-help book, "The Magic of Believing" by Claude M. Bristol, with giving her the courage to enter the business. Over the years, she would recommend it to aspiring entertainers, even buying it for them sometimes.

Diller worked steadily for decades, in nightclubs and on television. She built her stand-up act around the persona of the corner-cutting housewife ("I bury a lot of my ironing in the backyard") with bizarre looks, a wardrobe to match (by "Omar of Omaha") and the faithful "Fang."

Wrote Time magazine in 1961: "Onstage comes something that, by its own description, looks like a sackful of doorknobs. With hair dyed by Alcoa, pipe-cleaner limbs and knees just missing one another when the feet are wide apart, this is not Princess Volupine. It is Phyllis Diller, the poor man's Auntie Mame, only successful female among the New Wave comedians and one of the few women funny and tough enough to belt out a `standup' act of one-line gags."

"I was one of those life-of-the-party types," Diller said in 1965. "You'll find them in every bridge club, at every country club. People invited me to parties only because they knew I would supply some laughs. They still do."

She didn't get into comedy until she was nearly 40, after her first husband, Sherwood Diller, prodded her for two years to give up her advertising career. Through it all, she was also a busy mother. "We had five kids at the time. I don't how he thought we'd handle that," she said in 2006.

A Chicago Tribune columnist, describing her appearance at a nightspot there in 1958, noted she was from San Francisco, hailed her as "the weirdest, wildest yet"—and made sure to mention her five youngsters.

Her husband managed her career until the couple's 25-year marriage fell apart in the 1960s. Shortly after her divorce she married entertainer Warde Donovan, but they separated within months. Through both marriages and other relationships, "Fang" remained.

"Fang is permanent in the act, of course," she once said. "Don't confuse him with my real husbands. They're temporary."

She also appeared in movies, including "Boy, Did I Get a Wrong Number" and "Eight on the Lam" with Bob Hope. Diller had a cameo in "Splendor in the Grass" and was among the voices in the animated "A Bug's Life."

In 1966-67, she was the star of an ABC sitcom about a society family trying to stave off bankruptcy, "The Pruitts of Southampton." Gypsy Rose Lee played a nosy neighbor. In 1968, she was host of a short-lived variety series, "The Beautiful Phyllis Diller Show."

But standup comedy was her first love. Although she could be serious during interviews, sooner or later a joke would pop out, often as not followed by that outrageous "AH-HHAAAAAAAAAAAA-HA-HA-HA!"

"It's my real laugh," she once said. "It's in the family. When I was a kid my father called me the laughing hyena."

Hunt for answers in 'Top Gun' director's death

AP

In this Oct. 26, 2010 file photo, director Tony Scott arrives at the premiere of "Unstoppable" in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Director Tony Scott loved fast cars, riding fast motorcycles and creating some of the most memorable action sequences of the past quarter century. He was even planning a sequel to his hit "Top Gun."

Yet on Sunday, police removed the director's body from Los Angeles Harbor hours after they say he stopped his car on the towering Vincent Thomas Bridge and jumped.

His death stunned friends and fans and left Hollywood buzzing about what could have prompted one of the industry's more successful filmmakers to take an 18-story leap to his death.

An autopsy and notes he left for loved ones will offer investigators clues, but any answers that authorities obtain will not be released for several weeks.

The bridge is a favorite filming location for action directors, although the 68-year-old Scott apparently never used it for one of his films. The avid rock climber directed more than 15 movies that included such unforgettable sequences as the dog fights of "Top Gun" and the raw power of a runaway train in "Unstoppable."

As a director and producer, Scott worked with Hollywood's top actors, including Tom Cruise, Denzel Washington, Will Smith and Robert Redford, and helped influence a generation of action buffs.

Cruise, who starred in "Top Gun" and confirmed he was working with Scott on a sequel earlier this year, said he'd lost a dear friend.

"He was a creative visionary whose mark on film is immeasurable," Cruise wrote in a statement. "My deepest sorrow and thoughts are with his family at this time."

Notes to loved ones were found in his Scott's and at another location, Coroner's Chief of Operations Craig Harvey said. The death was being treated as a probable suicide, but a formal determination could take a month or more as toxicology and tissue tests are completed.

In the meantime, investigators will look into Scott's health and whether any other factors contributed to his death.

"The family asks that their privacy is respected at this time," said Simon Halls, a spokesman for Scott and his older brother, Oscar-winning director, Ridley Scott.

The bridge where Scott jumped has appeared in "The Fast and the Furious," "Gone in 60 Seconds," "Charlie's Angels" and "To Live and Die in L.A." It has been used in filming 13 times since 2011, according to the California Film Commission.

Motorist David Silva told the Los Angeles Times that Scott appeared to hesitate before climbing a fence along the bridge, and again before leaping. He said fellow motorists at first thought the director was performing an extreme sports stunt, but quickly realized he didn't have a parachute or other safety equipment.

The brothers frequently collaborated on movies, and their company also produced the successful TV series "Numb3rs" and "The Good Wife." CBS, which aired both shows, said "one of the brightest lights in the industry has gone out."

Scott, who was born in Great Britain and lived in Beverly Hills, is survived by his wife, actress Donna Scott, who appeared in several of her husband's films, and twin sons. He had been planning a sequel to "Top Gun," the movie that helped propel him to other big-budget films.

Scott often said he got his greatest thrills from filmmaking.

"The biggest edge I live on is directing. That's the most scary, dangerous thing you can do in your life," Scott said in an interview about his 1995 naval adventure "Crimson Tide." "The scariest thing in my life is the first morning of production on all my movies. It's the fear of failing, the loss of face and a sense of guilt that everybody puts their faith in you and not coming through."

He was the first of the Scott brothers to enjoy blockbuster success with "Top Gun," the top-grossing film of 1986 at $176 million. Scott teamed with Cruise again four years later on the hit "Days of Thunder."

Ridley Scott later surpassed his younger brother's career in terms of hits and accolades, earning an Oscar for "Gladiator" and three best director nominations. Tony Scott never was in the running for an Oscar, and critics often slammed his movies for emphasizing style over substance.

Pointing out dressing error must be done with discretion

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My friend was at a local event, a child's graduation. There was a woman whose rear end was exposed sitting in the row ahead. Several people took pictures and posted them on Facebook.

My concern is for the woman's family. My friend couldn't think of an easy way to tell her. My question is, how do you tactfully tell someone about her (or his) exposed buttocks without offending the person?

JUST ASKING IN ILLINOIS

DEAR JUST ASKING: The person who designed low-rise pants for women, frankly, should be taken to the stocks for public punishment. They flatter no one, particularly when the wearer bends or sits. If it's not the flesh dropping over the waistband, it's the Great Rift Valley visible from the rear.

Robert Burns, a Scottish poet, wrote in 1786 (I am paraphrasing) that if some power would give us the gift to see ourselves as others see us, it would free us from "many a blunder"! How right he was.

Had your friend informed the woman in the row ahead that her pants had slipped so low that people were photographing the view, she probably would have been less offended than embarrassed. The message should have been conveyed QUIETLY by another woman if one felt enough compassion to do it.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I was married for 22 years. My husband was verbally, mentally and emotionally abusive to me. I took it for my kids' sake.

My daughter recently had a son, and my ex wants nothing to do with him. He says if we don't name the baby after him, the baby doesn't need him in his life. My heart hurts for my grandson. My daughter is not with the baby's daddy. All the baby has is my daughter, my son and me. I don't know how a grandparent can't want to be a part of an innocent baby's life.

My ex is 45 and living with a 23-year-old. I just want him to at least give the baby a chance to know who his grandfather is. If there is no love there when they meet, we won't pursue a relationship. He is upset with me. I don't know why, because he's the one who asked for the divorce. What do you think about this?

CONFUSED IN PHOENIX

DEAR CONFUSED: Your ex-husband may be upset with you because he feels some guilt about the divorce, and rather than accept it, he is blaming you for it.

If you think this baby might somehow smooth over the years of abuse you experienced from him, please forget it. It is perfectly logical that your daughter wouldn't want to name her child for him after witnessing what he put you through for so many years—so please don't let her be coerced into it.

Because your ex is the kind of person he is, it would be better for all of you if the little boy DOESN'T get to know him. You married a self-centered, selfish, controlling individual. Consider yourself lucky that he's not pushing for involvement, because if that happens he will continue to treat all of you exactly the way he used to.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Rosie O'Donnell suffers heart attack, gets stent

NEW YORK (AP)—Rosie O'Donnell says she suffered a heart attack last week and is "lucky to be here."

The 50-year-old comedian detailed the experience on her blog Monday, saying sudden nausea, aches and other symptoms pushed her to do an online search for "women's heart attack symptoms." She took a few aspirin and went to a cardiologist the next day.

She says an artery was 99 percent blocked and a stent was inserted.

O'Donnell writes in a kind of verse on her blog. She says: "Know the symptoms ladies/ listen to the voice inside/ the one we all so easily ignore."

The comedian recently hosted "The Rosie Show" on the Oprah Winfrey Network. It was canceled in March.

AP

In this April 11, 2011 file photo, television personality Rosie O'Donnell attends the New York Women in Communications' 2011 Matrix Awards in New York.

'Expendables 2' captures No. 1 spot with $28.6M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sylvester Stallone's action-hero roundup "The Expendables 2" grabbed the top spot at the weekend box office with a $28.6 million debut.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Hollywood.com are:

1 **"The Expendables 2,"** Lionsgate, $28,591,370, 3,316 locations, $8,622 average, $28,591,370, one week.

2 **"The Bourne Legacy,"** Universal, $17,057,385, 3,753 locations, $4,545 average, $69,618,465, two weeks.

3 **"ParaNorman,"** Focus, $14,087,050, 3,429 locations, $4,108 average, $14,087,050, one week.

4 **"The Campaign,"** Warner Bros., $13,127,289, 3,255 locations, $4,033 average, $51,435,826, two weeks.

5 **"Sparkle,"** Sony, $11,643,342, 2,244 locations, $5,189 average, $11,643,342, one week.

6 **"The Dark Knight Rises,"** Warner Bros., $11,011,349, 3,157 locations, $3,488 average, $409,787,260, five weeks.

7 **"The Odd Life of Timothy Green,"** Disney, $10,822,903, 2,598 locations, $4,166 average, $15,100,918, one week.

8 **"Hope Springs,"** Sony, $9,111,529, 2,361 locations, $3,859 average, $35,063,321, two weeks.

9 **"Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days,"** Fox, $3,834,737, 2,737 locations, $1,401 average, $38,747,058, three weeks.

10 **"Total Recall,"** Sony, $3,472,829, 2,434 locations, $1,427 average, $51,755,272, three weeks.

11 **"Ice Age: Continental Drift,"** Fox, $3,005,507, 2,274 locations, $1,322 average, $150,191,923, six weeks.

AP

Sylvester Stallone attends the premiere for "The Expendables 2" at Grauman's Chinese Theatre on Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2012 in Los Angeles.

12 **"Ted,"** Universal, $1,543,080, 1,169 locations, $1,320 average, $213,064,385, eight weeks.

13 **"2016 Obama's America,"** Rocky Mountain Pictures, $1,244,698, 169 locations, $7,365 average, $2,062,200, six weeks.

14 **"Ek Tha Tiger,"** Yash Raj, $1,139,340, 118 locations, $9,655 average, $1,484,404, one week.

15 **"Step Up: Revolution,"** Lionsgate, $1,040,170, 905 locations, $1,149 average, $32,776,588, four weeks.

16 **"Brave,"** Disney, $815,785, 641 locations, $1,273 average, $229,121,303, nine weeks.

17 **"The Amazing Spider Man,"** Sony, $758,807, 598 locations, $1,269 average, $257,435,325, seven weeks.

18 **"Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted,"** Paramount, $708,023, 406 locations, $1,744 average, $212,684,700, 11 weeks.

19 **"Beasts of the Southern Wild,"** Fox Searchlight, $563,293, 236 locations, $2,387 average, $8,110,969, eight weeks.

20 **"Moonrise Kingdom,"** Focus, $503,385, 282 locations, $1,785 average, $42,966,193, 13 weeks.

Source: Nicki Minaj close to signing on for 'Idol'

NEW YORK (AP)—Nicki Minaj sings about "Starships," but is she a star-maker? The singer-rapper could be joining the ranks of "American Idol" judges.

A person close to Minaj said Monday the 29-year-old entertainer has been in talks to judge the Fox TV competition and that a deal is in the works. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because that person was not authorized to publicly discuss the matter.

The Fox network said it had no comment. If Minaj signs on, she would join Mariah Carey as a new judge on "Idol," which returns in January. Steven Tyler and Jennifer Lopez announced their exits from the show last month.

Minaj—known for her colorful hairstyles, wardrobe and antics—is best known for hits like "Super Bass," "Starships" and "Turn Me On" with David Guetta.

This Aug. 14, 2012 file photo shows Nicki Minaj performing on NBC's "Today" show in New York.

AP

Porn group wants filming halt during syphilis probe

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A pornography trade group is calling for a nationwide filming moratorium while officials in Los Angeles investigate a syphilis outbreak and performers get tested for the disease.

Free Speech Coalition spokeswoman Joanne Cachapero said Monday that one performer has tested positive for and the performer's sexual partners are being notified.

The Los Angeles County Public Health Department announced an investigation into at least five possible cases the sexually transmitted disease last week.

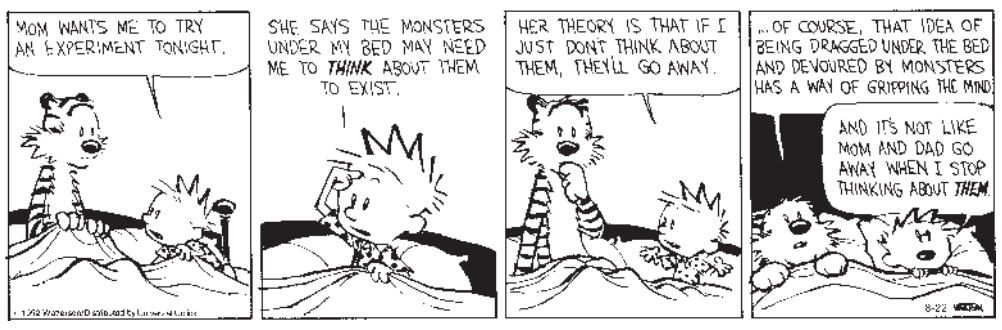
The self-imposed moratorium shutters a multi-billion industry whose major producers are based in Los Angeles county's San Fernando Valley.

County health officials acknowledged the investigation Monday but declined an interview seeking details of its scope or an update of its findings.

Pastimes

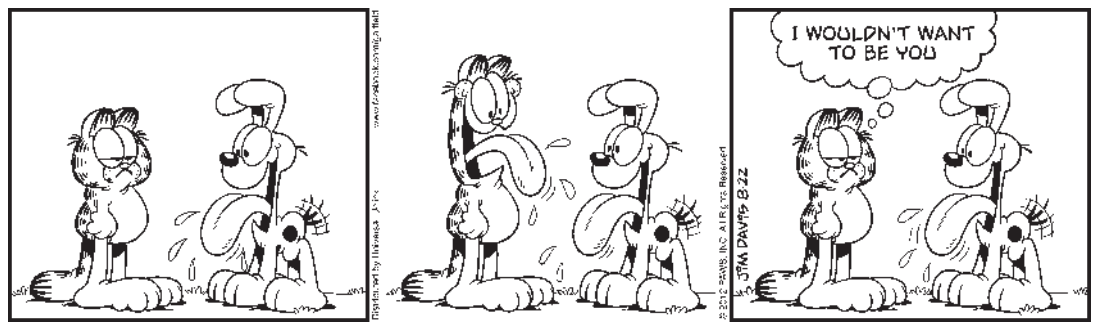
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MOM WANTS ME TO TRY AN EXPERIMENT TONIGHT.
SHE SAYS THE MONSTERS UNDER MY BED MAY NEED ME TO THINK ABOUT THEM TO EXIST.
HER THEORY IS THAT IF I JUST DON'T THINK ABOUT THEM, THEY'LL GO AWAY.
...OF COURSE, THAT IDEA OF BEING DRAGGED UNDER THE BED AND DEVOURED BY MONSTERS HAS A WAY OF GRIPPING THE MIND.
AND IT'S NOT LIKE MOM AND DAD GO AWAY WHEN I STOP THINKING ABOUT THEM.
8-22

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



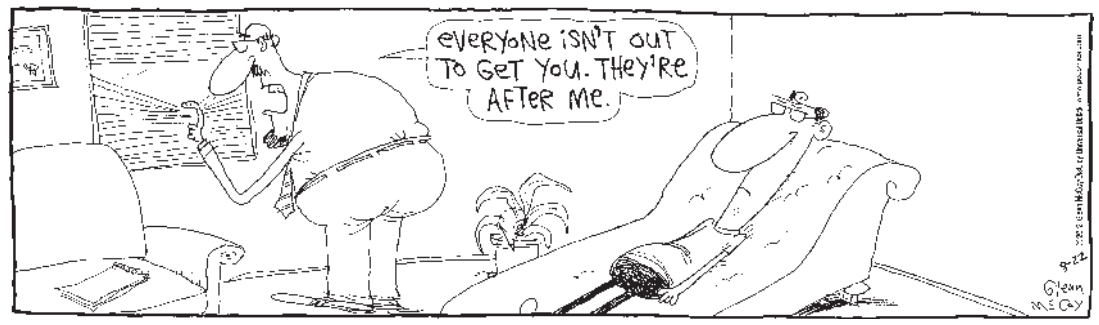
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE AM I?
YOU'RE SAFE. I JUST HIT YOU WITH MY PUPPY-DOG-EYE LOOK.
WOW! YOU'RE GOOD. I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING.
AND HERE'S YOUR WALLET.
AMAZING!
THANK YOU.
WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL. IF LEX LUTHOR HEARS ABOUT THIS, YOU COULD BE IN DANGER.
MARCEL 8-22

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Moo goo gai pan pan
4 Snitch
7 Prop for Sherlock
8 Intrinsically
10 Insertion mark
11 Mountaineering tool
13 New Orleans section
16 Scoundrel
17 Storefront sign info
18 Raw rock
19 Olympic sled
20 Desert-like
21 Harvests
23 Ski trail
25 Nevada city
26 Sex Pistols genre
27 Suitable
28 Highlanders
30 Island garland
33 "3rd Rock From the Sun" cast member
36 Baltimore bird
37 Change
38 Hairnet
39 Carry
40 Mimic
41 Crafty

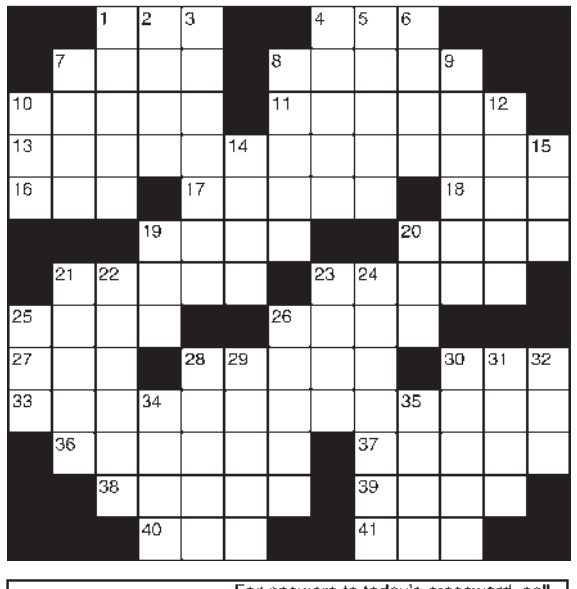
DOWN

1 Sent a telegram
2 Admitting customers
3 Burger enhancer
4 Happen again
5 Neighborhoods
6 Despot
7 Prefix with legal or medic
8 Resentment
9 Blackmail
10 Ozone depleter (Abbr.)
12 Weird
14 Swine
15 Scarlet
19 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
20 Request
21 Copy, for short
22 Goes in
23 Green shot
24 Entomologist's study
25 U.K. fliers
26 Sat for a picture
28 Ice cream tool
29 Actress Sevigny
30 Nonclergy
31 Sea eagle
32 "— Impossible"
34 NPR's Totenberg
35 Sweater material

Solution time: 21 mins.

F	A	L	L	■	Γ	B	I	■	M	A	T	S
O	R	E	O	■	O	E	R	■	O	G	R	E
R	F	A	M	■	C	I	F	A	R	O	U	T
M	A	K	E	O	U	T	■	P	A	G	E	S
■	■	■	I	T	S	■	G	E	L	■	■	■
M	E	A	N	T	■	P	A	S	S	O	U	T
A	R	K	■	■	T	O	M	■	■	P	S	I
D	R	A	G	O	U	T	■	M	O	S	E	S
■	■	■	L	O	X	■	H	E	R	■	■	■
A	R	R	O	Z	■	H	O	L	D	O	U	T
L	E	A	V	E	O	U	I	■	A	U	R	A
S	A	N	E	■	I	L	L	■	I	S	N	T
O	D	D	S	■	L	A	Y	■	N	E	S	S

Yesterday's answer 8-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kristen Wiig, 39; Ty Burrell, 45; Cindy Williams, 65; Valerie Harper, 73.

Happy Birthday: You will have to consider all sides of a situation before making a move. Nothing will be as you expect but your intuition will serve you well when it comes to making a final decision. Your numbers are 2, 14, 29, 30, 32, 44, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): There is money to be made. Posturing your position will make a difference. Don't allow a personal matter to stand in your way professionally. Your quick and clever way of expressing who you are will draw attention if you are networking or socializing. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Draw the line and stop anyone trying to take advantage of you. Time is money, and if you have something to offer, make sure you get something in return. Don't be fooled by a fast-talking salesperson looking to make a quick buck. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Have confidence in your abilities. You have just as much to offer as anyone else. Use your imagination and you will find a way to earn more money. Love is in the stars and expressing your intentions will lead to a memorable event. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Avoid being railroaded into doing something because you want to please someone. A problem with a friend or relative can lead to uncertainty and changes that are difficult to fix. Compromise but make sure everyone else involved is making the same contribution. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Change can help regenerate you mentally, physically and emotionally. Experience new places and people. Before long, you will be coming up with ideas and plans for the future that will help you turn your dreams into a possibility. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Changes made at home and to the way you spend your money will help you gain greater financial security. Getting together with friends or relatives will confirm that you are on the right track and help give you what you need to continue. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Look at the big picture before making a final decision. Play it safe and take baby steps. You will excel if you listen to your inner voice. Good fortune will be yours if you make choices based on facts and overall costs. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Consider what you want, what you need and how you can get the ball rolling. Offer what you can in order to get the favors you need to reach your goals. Don't trust someone making unrealistic promises. Keep your emotions in check. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Do something nice for someone. You can make alterations to your living quarters, but make sure you get the go-ahead from anyone who may be inconvenienced by your plans. An old friend or lover will influence a decision you must make. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't let added responsibilities get you down. Take care of business and keep moving in a positive direction. Love is in the stars, and planning a fun evening will enhance your personal life. An investment you hear about should be considered. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Keep your emotions out of any conversation or decision you make. Take a pass if what you are asked to do conflicts with your plans. Focus on your financial situation and your health. Ask someone you love for help. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A moneymaking partnership should be considered. Whether it's a personal or professional change you want to make, sharing the expenses and responsibilities with someone willing to work as hard as you will alleviate stress. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are thoughtful, caring and insightful. You are social and curious.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				5	7	3	9	
	3	5		1			6	
	2		7			4		
		8			9			
	4				6			
9			4	7		3		
1		7			2		4	3
3	6					2	8	
8						1		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	2	8	4	3	1	9	6	7
6	3	4	9	5	7	8	2	1
1	7	9	2	8	6	3	5	4
8	6	5	3	1	2	7	4	9
9	4	3	6	7	5	1	8	2
7	1	2	8	4	9	5	3	6
2	5	6	1	9	8	4	7	3
3	8	1	7	6	4	2	9	5
4	9	7	5	2	3	6	1	8

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/21

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE CHARLOTTE BOBCATS Solution: 9 letters

N	M	T	U	O	C	S	S	W	R	Ⓔ	C	O	R	D
E	O	R	B	Q	T	N	I	O	Ⓜ	O	R	O	S	E
U	A	R	O	A	A	N	O	Ⓐ	A	A	S	W	A	P
J	E	S	T	F	S	K	Ⓖ	C	N	T	O	L	X	I
E	A	S	T	H	I	K	H	G	E	R	L	N	L	R
R	I	D	I	E	C	N	E	R	H	S	Y	E	A	T
S	M	N	R	H	R	A	U	T	T	L	L	C	I	S
E	I	E	O	A	C	N	R	A	B	U	E	C	F	N
Y	C	F	C	S	F	N	R	O	D	A	K	E	O	I
S	H	S	T	I	A	T	A	E	L	E	L	U	R	P
T	A	I	N	R	T	E	H	R	T	I	E	L	W	U
N	E	A	E	R	O	C	S	S	F	R	N	B	A	K
I	L	N	A	D	S	P	A	W	A	Y	A	A	R	C
O	A	D	P	I	C	K	S	R	M	A	E	T	D	A
P	E	N	O	I	T	I	S	O	P	L	A	Y	S	B

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Yesterday's Answer: Magazines

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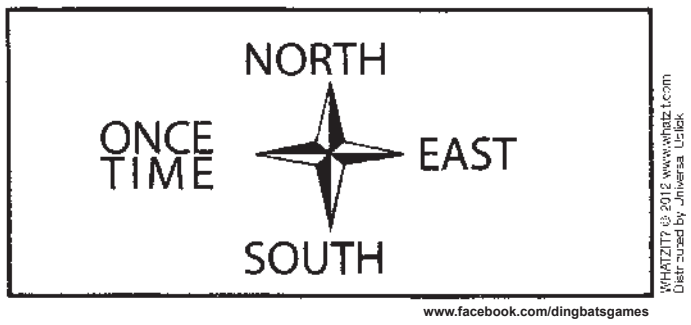

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP12-OPA-106

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 17, 2012 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

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THE SINGLE AUDIT GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE PUBLIC AUDITOR'S MAIN OFFICE AT 1236 YAP DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, EXCEPT HOLIDAYS.

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/S/ MICHAEL PAI
PUBLIC AUDITOR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Kanoa Resort Saipan

P.O Box 500369 Saipan MP 96950 • Tel # (670) 234-6601 Fax # (670) 234-8007

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Must be knowledgeable in setting up computer systems program. Must be HACCP Certified or knowledgeable in Food Safety Industry Grade Process.

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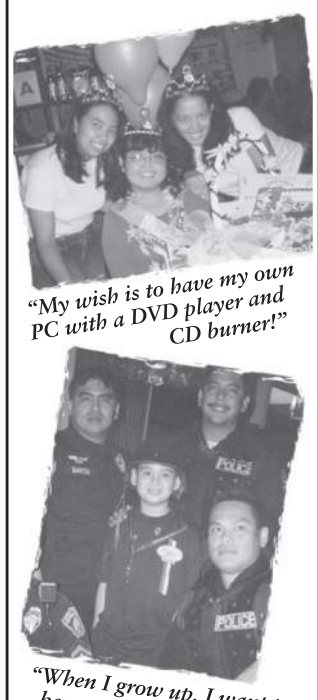

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Saipan Tribune

Garcia claims 2-stroke win at rainy Wyndham

WYNDHAM CHAMPIONSHIP

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP)—Rainy weather left Sergio Garcia stuck in central North Carolina for an extra day. Turns out, it was worth the hassle—because he's leaving with his first PGA Tour victory in four years.

Garcia claimed a two-stroke win Monday in the waterlogged Wyndham Championship for his first victory on tour since the 2008 Players Championship.

He finished with a 66 to wind up at 18-under 262, claim $936,000 in prize money and maybe seal a spot on the European Ryder Cup team.

"I think there were a lot of things going on. It shows a lot to me," Garcia said. "Hopefully, this will secure my spot on the Ryder Cup team, and winning is always nice."

Tim Clark was at 16 under following his 67 in the final tour event before the playoffs, and Bud Cauley finished 15 under after his 68.

Garcia led both after the third round and when the fourth round was held up overnight due to a persistent downpour.

He had three straight late-round birdies after a bogey briefly dropped him into a tie for the lead, and cruised to his eighth career PGA victory.

Garcia began the decisive surge on the par-4 No. 13, plopping his chip roughly a foot from the flagstick and tapping it in for birdie.

He added another birdie on No. 15—a pretty chip from a greenside bunker left him with a 5-foot putt—and followed that with another birdie on the par-3 16th after his tee shot stopped closer than 2 feet from the stick. He added a birdie on No. 17 to move to 19 under, leaving his bogey on the final hole inconsequential.

It was a bit of redemption for the 32-year-old Spaniard, who in his last appearance in Greensboro in 2009 held a share of the lead after three rounds and was up by three strokes midway through the round, but let it slip away. He finished in fourth place.

Yet he didn't necessarily come back thinking Donald Ross' course at Sedgefield Country Club owed him one.

"That year, I was pretty much in control and I lost it myself," Garcia said. "The course didn't do anything wrong to me."

This time, he finished strong to give a huge boost to his Ryder Cup candidacy. The 10 automatic qualifiers will be set following the Johnny Walker Invitational with Jose Maria Olazabal making two captain's picks.

"We'll see when the team comes out, but I think my chances are a little better now," Garcia said.

Nicolas Colsaerts—whose 66 left him at 13 under—wants a spot, too.

"When you play rounds like these and you commit to tournaments and you get yourself in position like this and make the most of it, it just shows how much you want it," Colsaerts said.

AP

Sergio Garcia, of Spain, tees off on the 16th tee during the final round of the Wyndham Championship golf tournament in Greensboro, N.C., Monday, Aug. 20, 2012. Garcia claimed a two-stroke victory in the rain-delayed event to earn his first PGA Tour victory since the 2008 Players Championship.

In addition to the quests by players on both sides for Ryder Cup selections, much of the focus—as it always is at the tour's annual late-season stop in central North Carolina—was on the chase to make the FedEx Cup playoffs, which begin in a few days at The Barclays.

But everything wound up taking a back seat to the weather, as heavy rains dumped more than 2 inches of water on the Sedgefield course on Sunday.

The final round was halted at roughly 3 p.m. with 38 players still on the course and seven players within three shots of Garcia. The decision came 2 1/2 hours later to hold off until Monday morning—the first Monday finish in Greensboro since 1983.

Clark, a South African and local favorite who played college golf at North Carolina State, matched Garcia at 15 under with a birdie on his third hole of the day, the par-4 No. 8. Garcia moved to 16 under with a birdie on the par-4 No. 11, but he gave that stroke back with a bogey on the next hole after missing a 10-foot putt for par.

Moments later, Chad Campbell joined them atop the leaderboard after his third consecutive birdie came on the 17th. Then Garcia made his big move.

"It was going to be tough to catch (Garcia), the way he finished," said Clark, who moved to 54th on the points list after not even being in the playoff picture a few weeks ago. This was his fourth top-15 finish since late June.

Among the playoff hopefuls, Heath Slocum was the only one to start outside the top 125 but play his way into The Barclays. His final-round 71 left him at 7 under for the tournament and pushed him to No. 124.

"Every little point helps, every little dollar helps," Slocum said.

Jason Dufner could have taken over the top spot on the points list with a victory, but he finished five strokes back and wound up leapfrogging Rory McIlroy for No. 2 behind Tiger Woods. He came in at No. 3, the highest-ranked player in the field.

Rice, Moore first 2 female members at Augusta

NEW YORK (AP)—The home of the Masters now has green jackets for women.

In a historic change at one of the world's most exclusive golf clubs, Augusta National invited former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and South Carolina financier Darla Moore to become the first female members since the club was founded in 1932.

"This is a joyous occasion," chairman Billy Payne said Monday.

For some, it was a long time coming.

Martha Burk and her women's advocacy group first challenged the club 10 years ago over its all-male membership. The debate returned this year when IBM, one of the top corporate sponsors of the Masters, appointed Virginia Rometty as its chief executive. The previous four CEOs of Big Blue had all been Augusta National members.

The battle ended in typical style for Augusta National, with an understated announcement that left even Burk stunned.

"Oh my God. We won," she blurted out when contacted by The Associated Press.

Burk was not the first advocate to draw attention to women being left out, but it was an exchange with former chairman Hootie Johnson in 2002 that ignited the issue. Feeling as though the Augusta National was being bullied, Johnson stood his ground, even at the cost of cutting loose television sponsors for two years, when he famously said the club might one day ask a woman to join, "but that timetable will be ours and not at the point of a bayonet."

The comment became either a slogan of the club's resolve not to yield to public pressure or a sign of sexism, depending on which side of the debate was interpreting it.

Johnson, who retired as chairman in 2006, said Monday in a statement to The State newspaper in Columbia, S.C., "This is wonderful news for Augusta National Golf Club and I could not be more pleased. Darla Moore is my good friend, and I know she and Condoleezza Rice will enjoy the Club as much as I have."

Johnson and Moore have roots in South Carolina and banking, and they worked together on a $300 million capital campaign for the University of South Carolina. Rice recently was appointed to an influential U.S. Golf Association committee that nominates members to the executive board.

Payne, who took over as chairman in 2006 when Johnson retired, said consideration for new members is deliberate and private, and that Rice and Moore were not treated differently from other new members. Even so, he took the rare step of announcing two of the latest members to join because of the historical significance.

"These accomplished women share our passion for the game of golf and both are well known and respected by our membership," Payne said in a statement. "It will be a proud moment when we present Condoleezza and Darla their green jackets when the club opens this fall. This is a significant and positive time in our club's history and, on behalf of our membership, I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome them and all of our new members into the Augusta National family."

Tiger Woods, who knows Rice through a mutual connection to Stanford, applauded the move.

"I think the decision by the Augusta National membership is important to golf," Woods said. "The Club continues to demonstrate its commitment to impacting the game in positive ways. I would like to congratulate both new members, especially my friend Condi Rice."

Jack Nicklaus, a six-time Masters champion and Augusta member, extended his welcome to the two women.

"Everyone at Augusta National shares a similar passion for the game of golf, and I know they will be great additions to the club," Nicklaus said.

A person with knowledge of club operations said Rice and Moore first were considered as members five years ago. That would be four years after the 2003 Masters, when Burk's protest in a grass lot down the street from the club attracted only about 30 supporters, and one year after Payne became chairman. The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the club keeps membership issues private, said Payne and Johnson agreed on the timing of a female member.

The person said prospective members often are not aware they are being considered. The club does not say how much it costs to join or provide figures on annual dues.

Augusta National is closed from the middle of May until the middle of October.

"It's very exciting news, obviously," said Allison Greene, who formed a group in 2003 called Women Against Martha Burk. "Condoleezza Rice and Darla Moore are outstanding and incredible role models for the community, and anything that puts women like that out there is always a good thing. Second of all, the fact that their membership came by the hand of Augusta National because they wanted to do it, not because they were forced to do it, is a good thing. I don't know any woman who would want to be a member of any kind of club because they were forced into membership."

Burk maintains her initial letter to Johnson on June 12, 2002—and his defiant reply—paved the way for Rice and Moore to become members a decade later.

"It came sooner than I expected. I thought they were going to try to outlast me," Burk said. "And I really thought they would wait until the women's movement would get no credit. But if we had not done what we did, this would not have happened now."

Augusta National, which opened in December 1932 and did not have a black member until 1990, is believed to have about 300 members. Before now, women were allowed to play the golf course as guests, including on the Sunday before the Masters week begins.

The issue of female membership never entirely went away after Burk's campaign, and it resurfaced again this year with Rometty as IBM's new chief executive. Rometty was seen at the Masters on the final day wearing a pink jacket, not a green one. She was not announced as one of the newest members.

Giants beat Dodgers, regain NL West lead

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Madison Bumgarner scattered four hits over eight scoreless innings, Pablo Sandoval drove in both runs and the San Francisco Giants defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers 2-1 on Monday night to regain the NL West lead by a half-game.

Bumgarner pitched his second scoreless outing of the season for the Giants, who have won six of their last nine games and 11 of 17. They erased the Dodgers' half-game lead in a division race that has seen the rivals frequently swap leads.

Bumgarner (14-7) struck out 10 and walked none to even his road record at 6-6.

Javier Lopez got the final out in the ninth to earn his second save in four chances after Hanley Ramirez homered with two out in the inning against Sergio Romo, preventing what would have been the Giants' fourth shutout of the season against the Dodgers.

The loss spoiled a solid outing by Clayton Kershaw (11-7), who gave up two runs and six hits in eight innings. The reigning NL Cy Young Award winner struck out 10 and walked none as his four-game winning streak ended. The left-hander helped his own cause with two singles and a backhanded diving catch of Gregor Blanco's pop-up bunt in foul territory near the first base line in the third.

But he got little run support, with Matt Kemp hitless in four at-bats with a strikeout and Andre Ethier going 0 for 4 with two strikeouts. He reached on a fielding error by Sandoval in the seventh.

Nationals 5, Braves 4

In Washington, Chad Tracy hit a game-ending single in the 13th inning to give the Nationals a 5-4 win over Atlanta, extending their lead over the Braves in the National League East division to six games.

Ian Desmond led off the 13th with an infield single off Cristhian Martinez (5-3) before Danny Espinosa's attempted bunt led to a forceout. Kurt Suzuki then hit a slow roller for an infield hit, allowing Espinosa to take third.

Phillies 12, Reds 5

In Philadelphia, John Mayberry Jr. hit a two-run homer and Ryan Howard and Erik Kratz had solo shots to power Philadelphia past Cincinnati.

Domonic Brown hit a go-ahead two-run double off Mike Leake (5-8) in the Phillies' four-run fifth inning.

The Phillies have won 12 of 13 against the Reds, dating to 2010. This was their first meeting this season.

Marlins 12, Diamondbacks 3

In Phoenix, Giancarlo Stanton homered twice, including the first of back-to-back long shots during Miami's nine-run fourth inning, which set up the win over Arizona.

Miami's 10 hits in the fourth matched a franchise record set last year, and the 12 runs and 20 hits were season highs.

Arizona's Joe Saunders (6-10) gave up nine runs in just 3 2-3 innings.

Rockies 3, Mets 1

In New York, Tyler Colvin hit a tying homer in the fifth inning, then made a diving play in the eighth to help Colorado beat New York.

Colvin notched his first home run in 105 at-bats, then in the eighth he made a lunging stop on a sharp grounder with the bases loaded, and his toss to first base just beat the batter to the bag. The Mets were unhappy with the call, with manager Terry Collins having a prolonged argument with the first base umpire.

Brewers 9, Cubs 5

In Milwaukee, Jonathan Lucroy hit two home runs and the Brewers scored eight runs in the fifth inning to rally past Chicago.

The Brewers sent 11 batters to the plate and recorded seven hits in their biggest inning for two years.

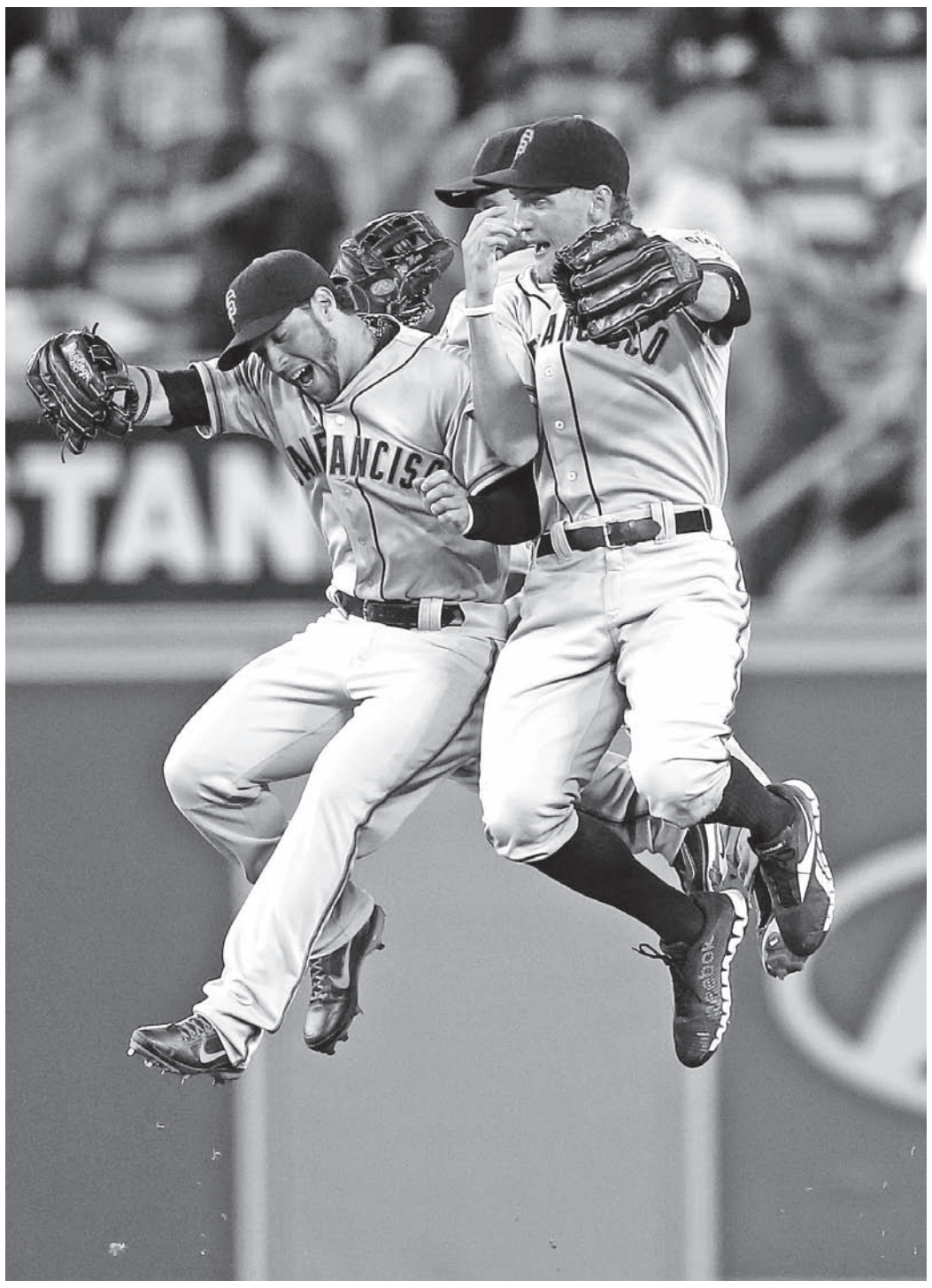
Milwaukee's Mark Rogers (1-1) claimed his first major league victory in seven career starts, including five this season. He allowed three five hits in five innings.

Padres 3, Pirates 1

In San Diego, Edinson Volquez struck out 10 and Will Venable drove in two runs to lift the San Diego Padres to a 3-1 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

The loss comes on the heels of Pittsburgh's 19-inning 6-3 victory at St. Louis on Sunday afternoon.

San Diego, which snapped a five-game losing streak Sunday, has won 16 of 19 against the Pirates. Pittsburgh is a half-game ahead of the Los Angeles Dodgers for the final wild-card berth.



AP

San Francisco Giants' Gregor Blanco, left, Brandon Crawford, right, and Angel Pagan celebrate their team's 2-1 win against the Los Angeles Dodgers after a baseball game in Los Angeles, Monday, Aug. 20, 2012.

Mariners 5, Indians 3

In Seattle, Michael Saunders hit a pair of two-run home runs to help Seattle beat the Cleveland Indians, 5-3, for the Mariners' sixth straight victory.

Saunders also hit a two-run homer on Sunday and now has a career high 13 homers.

Eric Thames also had a solo shot for the Mariners in the sixth as well as a triple in the eighth.

The Mariners have won 13 of their last 14 games at Safeco Field. It's the best home stretch over 14 games in club history. They are 23-13 since the All-Star Break.

Rangers 5, Orioles 1

In Arlington, Ryan Dempster pitched eight innings, his longest outing in more than two months and his best since being traded to Texas, as the American League West-leading Rangers beat the Baltimore Orioles, 5-1.

Dempster (2-1 in Texas, 7-6 overall) retired the last 11 batters he faced. The right-hander acquired from the Chicago Cubs on July 31 allowed one run and four hits.

Rays 5, Royals 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Jeremy Hellickson pitched seven innings for his first home win in three months as Tampa Bay downed Kansas City.

Hellickson (8-8) allowed one run and six hits in ending a stretch of seven consecutive home winless starts, dating to a 2-1 victory over Boston on May 16.

Tampa Bay was coming off an 8-2 road trip that concluded with a four-game sweep over the Los Angeles Angels.

Twins 7, Athletics 2

In Oakland, Josh Willingham drove in two runs against his former team, Joe Mauer hit a two-run single and the Minnesota Twins snapped Oakland's four-game winning streak with a 7-2 victory over the Athletics.

Brian Duensing (3-8) struck out seven and walked one in six innings to win for the first time in three starts after consecutive losses, helping the Twins bounce back from a three-game weekend sweep at Seattle to begin a 10-game road trip.

Yankees 3, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Freddy Garcia pitched four shutout innings against his former team as the New York Yankees gave the veteran right-hander a 3-0 lead.

Garcia's night suddenly caved in during the White Sox's five-run fifth inning. After he departed, the Yankees regained the lead before the bullpen gave up three homers as Chicago rallied for a 9-6 victory in the opener of a three-game series between first-place teams Monday night.

"I'm really disappointed. We had the lead, 3-0. That's the game," said Garcia, who helped the White Sox win the 2005 World Series.

Clemens returning to baseball

HOUSTON (AP)—Roger Clemens' signing with the Sugar Land (Texas) Skeeters has some wondering if it is the first step in a return to the majors.

The 50-year-old Clemens signed with the Skeeters of the independent Atlantic League on Monday and he is expected to start for the minor league team on Saturday at home against Bridgeport.

"His fastball was clocked at 87 mph. All of his pitches were working," said Randy Hendricks, Clemens' agent. "He threw a three-inning simulated game after an extensive workout warmup."

Clemens and Skeeters manager Gary Gaetti have been talking about this "for months," Hendricks said. Clemens is expected to discuss his decision Tuesday during a news conference in Sugar Land, about 20 miles southwest of Houston.

Clemens, acquitted in June of charges he lied to Congress when he denied using performance-enhancing drugs, hasn't played for a team since pitching for the New York Yankees in 2007 at the age of 45. He went 6-6 in 18 games with a 4.18 ERA that season.

Texas Rangers pitcher Roy Oswalt, a former teammate of Clemens with the Astros, is excited about his friend's return to baseball.

"I think he's going to show everybody that all that stuff that he had to go through had nothing to do with the success he had in the big leagues," Oswalt said. "He said he's going to do it a little bit and see how his body responds. I wouldn't be surprised next year if he's pitching in the big leagues for somebody."

Clemens has been throwing batting practice to one of his sons often, and Oswalt said that Clemens "feels pretty good."

Yankees manager Joe Girardi, who is three years younger than Clemens, said it is difficult to get that urge to compete out of your blood.

"He's always loved to compete," Girardi said of Clemens. "That's who he is. He kept coming back. There were times he felt he couldn't quite go a full season, but he gave it as much as he had. He loved to compete. That's a hard thing to replace is that competition. Guys miss it."

Clemens had two great seasons with the Astros after he turned 40, going 18-4 with a 2.98 ERA in 2004 to win his record seventh Cy Young Award. He was 13-8 with a career-low 1.87 ERA in 2005.

Clemens earned $160 million and won 354 games in a 24-year career with the Red Sox, Yankees, Blue Jays and Astros. His 4,672 strikeouts are third-most and he was named to 11 All-Star games.

Now he will see what he has left for the Skeeters, who play in the Atlantic League. He joins a roster that includes former major league pitchers Tim Redding and Scott Kazmir and Jason Lane, a teammate of Clemens' on Houston's 2005 World Series team.

It isn't clear how long Clemens will pitch for the Skeeters.

"This is a one game at a time thing," Hendricks said. "Let's see how he does on Saturday."

Some in baseball weren't quite as keen on the idea as Oswalt.

"He didn't travel with the Astros half the time toward the end there," Oakland pitcher Brett Anderson said. "I can't imagine him traveling for the Sugar Land Skeeters. I'm sure they'll draw a good crowd and it will be fun, but it's kind of those things you read about it and you're like: `What's he doing?'"

Clemens is set to appear on the Hall of Fame ballot going to voters late this year. If he plays in another major league game, his Hall consideration would be pushed back five years.

Pacquiao heading toward rematch versus Bradley

BOXING

LAS VEGAS— Juan Manuel Marquez put on an impressive show during his 2011 fight against Manny Pacquiao, and the two might meet again for the fourth time later on this year. Pacquiao won the last encounter between the two, but many boxing fans and experts did give Marquez the nod.

Marquez was quite emotional after the loss, and for a moment, he didn't seem interested in facing Pacquiao again, due to the fact that he didn't feel he could get a fair shake against the Filipino congressman—who is the second biggest name in boxing next to Floyd Mayweather.

However, Marquez has had a change of heart since then, and he's now looking forward to a fourth fight against Pacquiao.

Ironically, after Pacquiao enjoyed a controversial decision against Marquez, he ended up getting the short end of the stick after his June 9 fight against Timothy Bradley. Pacquiao clearly won the bout, but it was Bradley who benefited from the controversial scoring this time around.

AP

Manny Pacquiao, right, hits Timothy Bradley during their June 9 fight in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The loss definitely put a wrench in Top Rank promoter, Bob Arum's, plans for a fourth fight between Pacquiao and Marquez, and the "Pac Man's" next move is still unknown. His contract with Bradley does have a rematch clause, and he's also looking at a rematch against Miguel Cotto

While Pacquiao and his handlers haven't yet officially announced his next opponent, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and boxing practitioner David King in his article published at Yahoo Sports said it does look like he's leading towards a rematch against Bradley.

"I think it's Bradley," Pacquiao's legal adviser, Franklin Gacal, said during an interview with a Philippine newspaper. "There's a score to settle with Bradley."

Arum went to the Philippines, helping Pacquiao figure out his next move. They'll also be discussing a potential fight against Mayweather.

"I want to explore with Manny the feasibility of doing a Mayweather fight sometime next year," Arum said. "I have to get his idea on schedules and when he is going to have to start campaigning for office. … I am very optimistic we are going to get it done for next year."

CNMI

From Page 24

Making it to the Final Four of the POJC that ran from Aug. to 10 were girls' U15's Mikayla Lopez, Negahr Rastguiy, Tammy Ackerman, Isabel Heras, and Carol Lee. The Commonwealth's five semis tickets edged the four of powerhouse and host Fiji. Samoa had three semifinalists, Vanuatu and Tahiti had two each, and Guam, New Caledonia, the Federated of States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, the Norfolk Island, Solomon Islands) and New Caledonia earned one apiece. The four other nations (Cook Islands, American Samoa, Palau, and Tonga) missed entering the Final Four of the boys and girls U12, U15, and U18 singles.

Last year, the CNMI gained six semis tickets, beating Fiji (4), the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and New Caledonia, which had two each, and Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Tonga, Cook Islands, and American Samoa, which got one apiece.

"It was another impressive showing for our players. Even those who placed in the No. 5 to 6 spots almost made it to the semifinals. They have close games that they could have won to advance to the semis," said Race.

Thea Minor and Christian Miller of the U18 division and U12's Luther Lizama just missed the semis by one step, as they finished No. 5 in their respective groups, while Rafael Jones (U18) and Chris Cajigan both placed No. 6

"We also had a lot of medalists both in the singles and doubles competitions. We won three of the six doubles events," Race added.

Lopez, besides taking the girls U15 singles, also took the doubles crown with teammate and U15 runner-up Rastguiy, while Heras and Lee claimed the girls U12 crown. Heras notched a silver in the singles. Cajigan fell short in the singles, but brought home the gold in the U15 doubles after teaming up with FSM's Terry Rush in beating Tabera Bonteman and Johan Sklenak in the finals.

Despite ruling the POJC for the second straight time, Race said they will not rest on their laurels.

"We will raise the bar a little bit more. We will get back to training after a few weeks of rest and keep improving our game. We will keep pushing ourselves harder," the CNMI mentor added.

LOPEZ

From Page 24

ing set, 5-7. Lopez forced a deciding third set after pulling off a 6-4 triumph in the second set and then completed the come-from-behind win with an epic 10-5 victory in the third sett.

Rastguiy also joined the Junior ITF event and gave her much taller and experienced foe from Australia a run for her money.

"Negahr almost beat her in the super tiebreaker. She was so frustrated because she wanted the win badly. However, you can't ask for more from her. She played one tough game," Race added.

Rastguiy faced Australia's Chanistha Ampornachariya in the consolation draw and won the opening set, 6-4. The Australian recovered in the second set with a 6-3 win and had a neck-and-neck battle against Rastguiy in the deciding third set before escaping with a hard earned 10-7 victory.

Going back to the POJC, Rastguiy was still impressive despite placing only second to Lopez.

"It was her first time to play in the U15 group in the POJC and to finish second was big," Race said.

Rastguiy had a 3-1 record in the pool play in the U15 singles, losing only to Lopez in the elimination. She dropped only two sets and won six and logged a 40-18 record (games won/loss). Overall, she had a 6-2 record in POJC for a 75 winning percentage.

Also debuting in POJC was Luther Lizama, who was just one notch away from making it to the semis and ended up at a respectable No. 5 spot.

"It was his first time in Fiji and he should be proud of what he accomplished there. Luther will continue to improve his game," Race said.

Lizama had a 2-2 record in the boys U12 pool play to finish third in his group and then topped the No. 5 to 8 competition after sweeping his two consolation games.

NMASA

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to support CNMI baseball, including the successful trip of the Commonwealth sluggers to New Caledonia last year for the 2011 Pacific Games. The CNMI Baseball Team almost missed the competition due to financial difficulties, but Igitol made things happen and the Commonwealth bets went home with the gold medal.

Rogolifoi coached the gold medal squad, steering the CNMI to an impressive 8-4 win in the finals against archrival Guam. Rogolifoi led the CNMI to the Promised Land despite having a depleted lineup and almost not making it to the playoffs. The CNMI had a 3-2 card in the elimination and advanced to the finals after surviving New Caledonia and Palau in do-or-die matches.

The Josh Jones-led CNMI Team was the first squad from the Commonwealth to bring home a gold medal in the baseball competition. Jones, who is nominated for the Outstanding Male Athlete of the Year, was the best pitcher of the team and the entire tournament and also dominated local competitions last year and early this season.

Bennett, a nominee for the Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year, also represented the CNMI to off-island competitions from 2011 to 2012. She crushed CNMI records in the 100m and 200m races in the Oceania championships in Apia Samoa and then joined the World Championships in Daegu, Korea. The Kagman High School graduate was then awarded her fourth consecutive NMASA Female Athlete of the Year plum.

Rafael Jones was the recipient of the 2011 Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMASA Male Student Athlete of theYear Award, winning the prestigious title after his outstanding showing in local competitions, in the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam, and the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji. The Saipan International School Student, who is nominated for the Junior Athlete of the Year, also played in several tournaments in Australia early this year.

Winners in the Pacific Sports Awards will be announced this October at the Council's general membership meeting in Wallis and Futuna.

MBI

From Page 24

47-47, as both teams could not find the right combination to spark a breakaway. Looban did get the right formula in the payoff period with the combo of Montano, Tabamo, and Dayrit doing the damage for the team.

Last Monday's game was also decided in the fourth quarter with the tandem of Noel David and Roy Hernandez canning timely baskets to power MBI to the win.

David and Hernandez combined for 13 points in the final period, as MBI outgunned Mawati, 19-13, to turn a 39-41 deficit to the 4-point victory. Galarse also contributed in the fourth-quarter rally, adding 4 markers to finish with a game-high 20 markers.

MBI is now tied with Zhaila's All Starz for the lead in Pool A, while Mawati dropped to a 0-3 card to remain at the bottom of the team standings.

Saturday's Game

Looban 66 – Tabamo 15, Montano 15, Dayrit 14, De Leon 12, Quiambao 2, Loste 2.

San Roque 63 – Odicta 17, R. Usi 9, Salazar 9, Johanes 8, Bautista 6, M. Usi 6, Claveria 6, Villanueva 4.

Scoring by quarters: 17-17, 31-32, 47-47, 66-63.

Monday's Game

MBI 58 – Galarse 20, David 11, Hernandez 9, Trajano 7, Tenorio 7, Garcia 4.

Mawati 54 – Ibanez 14, Nonato 11, Enriquez 8, Reyes 5, Dela Cruz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-17, 25-27, 39-41, 58-54.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

New York	72	50	.590	–
Tampa Bay	68	54	.557	4
Baltimore	66	56	.541	6
Boston	59	63	.484	13
Toronto	56	65	.463	15½

Central Division

Chicago	66	55	.545	–
Detroit	64	57	.529	2
Kansas City	54	67	.446	12
Cleveland	54	68	.443	12½
Minnesota	51	70	.421	15

West Division

Texas	71	50	.587	–
Oakland	65	56	.537	6
Los Angeles	62	60	.508	9½
Seattle	59	64	.480	13

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	76	46	.623	–
Atlanta	70	52	.574	6
New York	57	65	.467	19
Philadelphia	57	65	.467	19
Miami	56	67	.455	20½

Central Division

Cincinnati	74	49	.602	–
Pittsburgh	67	55	.549	6½
St. Louis	65	56	.537	8
Milwaukee	55	66	.455	18
Chicago	47	74	.388	26
Houston	39	83	.320	34½

West Division

San Francisco	67	55	.549	–
Los Angeles	67	56	.545	½
Arizona	62	60	.508	5
San Diego	54	70	.435	14
Colorado	47	73	.392	19

WYNDHAM CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

GREENSBORO, North Carolina (AP) – Scores Monday from the Wyndham Championship, a PGA Tour event played at the 7,117-yard, par-70 Sedgefield Country Club:

Final

(FedExCup points in parentheses)

Sergio Garcia (500),	$936,000	67-63-66-66–262
Tim Clark (300),	$561,600	63-67-67-67–264
Bud Cauley (190),	$353,600	66-65-66-68–265
Chad Campbell (115),	$214,933	71-64-65-66–266
Carl Pettersson (115),	$214,933	62-68-68-68–266
Jimmy Walker (115),	$214,933	66-62-71-67–266
Nicolas Colsaerts,	$162,067	67-65-69-66–267
Bill Haas (85),	$162,067	68-65-67-67–267
Jason Dufner (85),	$162,067	68-67-63-69–267
Harris English (68),	$124,800	66-64-68-70–268
Davis Love III (68),	$124,800	67-66-66-69–268
Troy Matteson (68),	$124,800	64-68-68-68–268
John Merrick (68),	$124,800	66-69-67-66–268
Brendon de Jonge (55),	$88,400	68-68-67-66–269
Matt Every (55),	$88,400	65-66-68-70–269
Richard H. Lee (55),	$88,400	66-69-65-69–269
Charl Schwartzel (55),	$88,400	67-68-66-68–269
Scott Stallings (55),	$88,400	64-70-67-68–269
Bobby Gates (51),	$67,600	69-67-65-69–270
John Huh (51),	$67,600	69-65-69-67–270
Justin Leonard (51),	67,600	68-68-64-70–270
Angel Cabrera (47),	$48,273	67-71-66-67–271
Chris Kirk (47),	$48,273	66-69-69-67–271
Graham DeLaet (47),	$48,273	69-67-67-68–271
Trevor Immelman (47),	$48,273	67-68-68-68–271
Rocco Mediate (47),	$48,273	70-65-68-68–271
Webb Simpson (47),	$48,273	66-63-71-71–271
Tim Herron (42),	$36,920	76-61-67-68–272
Rod Pampling (42),	$36,920	68-66-70-68–272
Brandt Snedeker (42),	$36,920	67-67-68-70–272
Patrick Cantlay,	$30,160	70-68-66-69–273
Will Claxton (38),	$30,160	69-66-65-73–273
Charles Howell III (38),	$30,160	67-69-71-66–273
Heath Slocum (38),	$30,160	68-67-67-71–273
Kyle Thompson (38),	$30,160	69-67-68-69–273
Nick Watney (38),	$30,160	66-69-70-68–273
Gary Christian (30),	$21,320	67-70-67-70–274
Russell Knox (30),	$21,320	68-68-69-69–274
Ryan Moore (30),	$21,320	71-68-68-67–274
Jeff Overton (30),	$21,320	69-69-67-69–274
D.A. Points (30),	$21,320	68-68-67-71–274
Kyle Reifers (30),	$21,320	67-72-66-69–274
Kevin Streelman (30),	$21,320	68-66-68-72–274
Josh Teater (30),	$21,320	67-71-69-67–274
Y.E. Yang (30),	$21,320	67-69-69-69–274
Billy Horschel (24),	$14,742	69-67-66-73–275
Kevin Kisner (24),	$14,742	68-71-70-66–275
Nick O'Hern (24),	$14,742	68-71-67-69–275
Kevin Stadler (24),	$14,742	73-65-68-69–275
Jamie Donaldson,	$12,542	68-66-71-71–276
Tommy Gainey (19),	$12,542	66-67-68-75–276
Jerry Kelly (19),	$12,542	72-67-69-68–276
Dicky Pride (19),	$12,542	69-68-67-72–276
Alexandre Rocha (19),	$12,542	68-68-69-71–276
Jonas Blixt (15),	$11,856	72-67-67-71–277
Derek Lamely (15),	$11,856	69-68-70-70–277
David Mathis (15),	$11,856	63-71-73-70–277
Blake Adams (11),	$11,440	67-71-67-73–278
Scott Dunlap (11),	$11,440	70-69-67-72–278
Ryuji Imada (11),	$11,440	67-70-70-71–278
Chez Reavie (11),	$11,440	67-69-71-71–278
Charlie Wi (11),	$11,440	72-67-70-69–278
Troy Kelly (8),	$11,128	71-68-69-71–279
Billy Mayfair (7),	$11,024	69-70-74-67–280
Jeff Maggert (6),	$10,920	68-71-74-68–281
Arjun Atwal (4),	$10,660	66-69-75-72–282
Cameron Beckman (4),	$10,660	73-66-69-74–282
Tom Pernice Jr. (4),	$10,660	70-68-74-70–282
Brendan Steele (4),	$10,660	72-65-71-74–282
Stuart Appleby (1),	$10,296	67-71-69-76–283
Ben Kohles,	$10,296	72-67-70-74–283
Camilo Villegas (1),	$10,296	72-67-70-74–283
Jason Kokrak (1),	$10,036	66-69-77-73–285
Chris Stroud (1),	$10,036	68-70-72-75–285
Paul Casey (1),	$9,880	68-70-77-75–290

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saipan Tribune
Sports

CNMI tops foes in Fiji tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the second straight year, the CNMI Junior Tennis Team bested 17 other island-nations that competed in the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships held in Fiji.

"With great pride, I would like to congratulate our junior tennis players for another outstanding performance in the POJC. We did it again. Our team had the most semifinalists in the POJC," said CNMI coach Jeff Race in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

See CNMI on Page 23

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI coach Jeff Race, left, seen here posing with Luther Lizama before their practice session at the Pacific Islands Club early this month, said the Commonwealth bested its foes in the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

Lopez, Rastguiy stand out

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The diminutive Mikayla Lopez and Negahr Rastguiy stood tall in the girls U15 division of the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

"Mika and Negahr were the best players of the CNMI in Fiji. They had outstanding games and defeated tough players," CNMI coach Jeff Race said.

Lopez won the girls U15 singles crown, beating Rastguiy in the all-CNMI finals. She never dropped a single set in the singles event, sweeping the pool play and winning eight sets. The 15-year-old netter won 48 games and lost only 10.

Overall, Lopez had a perfect record in POJC, getting six wins in singles and two in doubles. She earned a 72-16 record in games won/loss for an impressive 81.8 winning percentage. In doubles, she posted a 9-3 mark for a 75 percent clip.

With her singles and doubles wins (with Rastguiy), Lopez earned a slot to the 2012 Oceania Closed Junior Championships—a B2 event in the Junior ITF Circuit that awards ranking points.

"Mika even defeated a U18 player, who has been training at the RTC in Fiji. That's a big accomplishment for her," Race said.

Race was talking of Papua New Guinea's Lorish Puluspene, who is several inches taller than the 4'6" Lopez. The CNMI bet, who played in her last year in the girls U15 and joined the girls U18 draw of the 2012 Oceania Closed Junior Championships, stunned Puluspene in the consolation draw despite losing the open-

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MBI, Looban still undefeated

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Micronesian Brokers, Inc. and Looban prevailed in separate low-scoring games to remain unbeaten in the 2012 DLX/Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League.

Looban played in the second game last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court and thwarted San Roque, 66-63, while MBI edged Mawati in the lone match played last Monday, 58-54.

With the victory, Looban gained a share of Pool B lead with LD Prime, while San Roque stayed in the middle of the pack with its 1-2 record.

Juluis Tabamo, Bernardo Montano, and Joy Dayrit scored all of Looban's points in the fourth quarter to lift the Pool B co-leader to the 3-point win. Tabamo's back-to-back baskets early in the fourth broke the deadlock, while Montano also had a string of five markers to keep Looban in the lead. Next up to score in streak for Looban was Dayrit, who also nailed five straight markers, while Montano drilled three of the team's last five points to help secure the victory.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Juluis Tabamo, seen here trying to escape from his defender during the DLX caging game last June, scored 15 points in Looban's 66-63 win over San Roque last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

San Roque lost the closely fought game in the end, as it made only five field goals in the fourth canto and no player logged more than one field goal in the payoff period. San Roque also had only Ryan Odicta breaking into double digits with his 17 points.

In contrast, Looban drew twin digits from four players with Tabamo and Montano firing 15 each, Dayrit adding 14, and Kevin De Leon chipping in 12.

Tabamo drained 9 of his total points in the opening canto, which ended in a deadlock, 17-all. San Roque hit two early triples in the first period to remain afloat despite Tabamo's strong start.

The match remained tight in the second period with San Roque this time taking a precarious one-point lead, 32-31, after getting contributions from six different players. Tabamo was held to a field goal in the second canto and only Kevin Deleon scored more than 4 points in that period.

Then in the third frame, the game was back to square one,

See MBI on Page 23

NMASA backs nominees in Pacific Awards

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association has turned over documents to the Pacific Games Council, supporting the nomination of CNMI athletes and officials to the 4th Annual Pacific Sports Awards.

White

NMASA president Michael White submitted to Council executive director Andrew Minogue last Monday the supporting statements for the nomination of baseball's Tony Rogolifoi and Rose Igitol, the CNMI Baseball Team, tennis' Rafael Jones, baseball's Joshua Jones, and athletics Yvonne Bennett.

Rogolifoi is nominated for the Outstanding Coach of the Year award, while his better half is vying for the Outstanding Sports Administrator of the Year recognition. Rafael and Joshua Jones and Bennett are nominated in the Outstanding Athletes of the Year category, while the CNMI Baseball Team is aiming for the Outstanding Team of the Year award.

NMASA, in its supporting statements, said Igitol managed to secure resources needed

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